[illegible] M. Hours, Private	D	Gunshot wound through right arm above and below elbow
Mortimore Stalnaker, Sergt.	E	Gunshot wound through little finger
John Forrester, Private	D	Gunshot wound right hand
James H. Dodd, Corporal	E	Gunshot wound in left knee joint retained
Wm. M. Barnett, Private	F	Gunshot wound through right leg near knee joint
John Blagg, Private	F	Gunshot wound right ankle, serious involving joint
Newlon Squires, Private	F	Gunshot wound top of right shoulder
E. B. Wheeler, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left shoulder
Jacob Riffle, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left arm, shattered humurus
Silas M. Morrison, Private	F	Gunshot wound through both arms
Addison Wilson, Private	F	Gunshot wound through middle, ring and little fingers
George C. Gillispie, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left leg
Milton Rollyson, Private	F	Gunshot wound through left forearm
John Rollyson, Private	F	Gunshot wound through middle finger right hand
Coleman Wyant, Private	G	Gunshot wound in abdomen, flesh wound
M. A. Jeffries, Corporal	G	Gunshot wound in left thigh
Nimrod Weiss, Private	H	Gunshot wound in right side, perforating bowels
James M. Randle, Private	H	Gunshot wound in left thigh, lower third, flesh wound

KILLED

B. Curry, Sergeant	A	Gunshot in head
G. I. Shaw, Private	A	Gunshot mortally
Chas. Bryson, Private	D	Gunshot in head
M. Shriever, Private	E	Gunshot mortally
John D. Baxter, O. S.	F	Gunshot in bowels
Coleman Channel, Captain	H	Gunshot mortally
David Sanders, Private	H	Gunshot mortally
Wesley Pullens, Private	H	Gunshot mortally

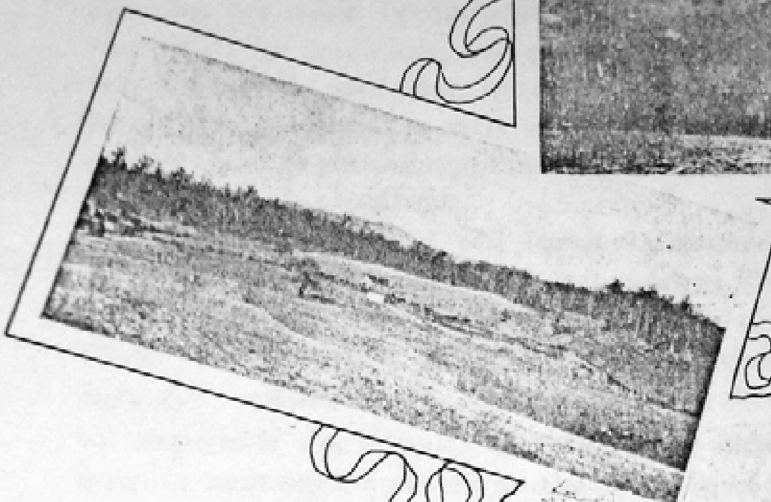
Five killed and twenty-one wounded in 28th Ohio; their orderly sergeant, Company F, killed.

Since attention has been called to the Droop Mountain Battlefield great interest has been shown all over the State, and being situated as it is on one of the paved highways of the State, no greater attraction can be shown than the great scenic views of the mountains and rivers, and the rich valley, lying at its base, together with the battlefield, will make Droop Mountain one of the nation's leading attractions, and will advertise West Virginia, as nothing else could do.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that the effort that is being put forth for the development and beautifying the battlefield has met the hearty response of every old soldier, living of either army, and has the universal approval of the citizens of the State.

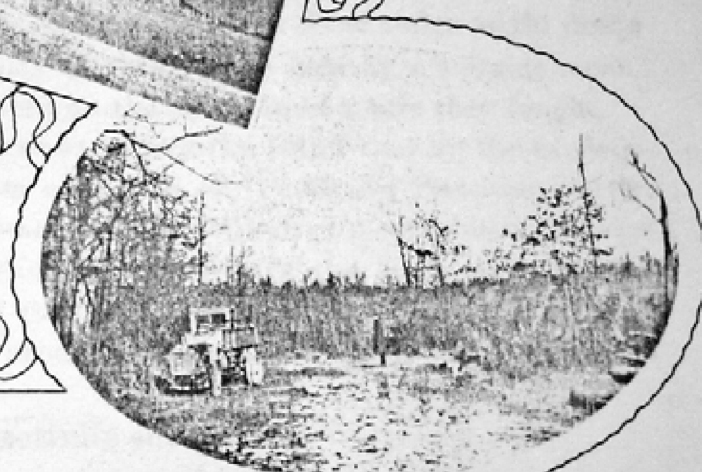
LOCUST CREEK FROM BREAST WORKS





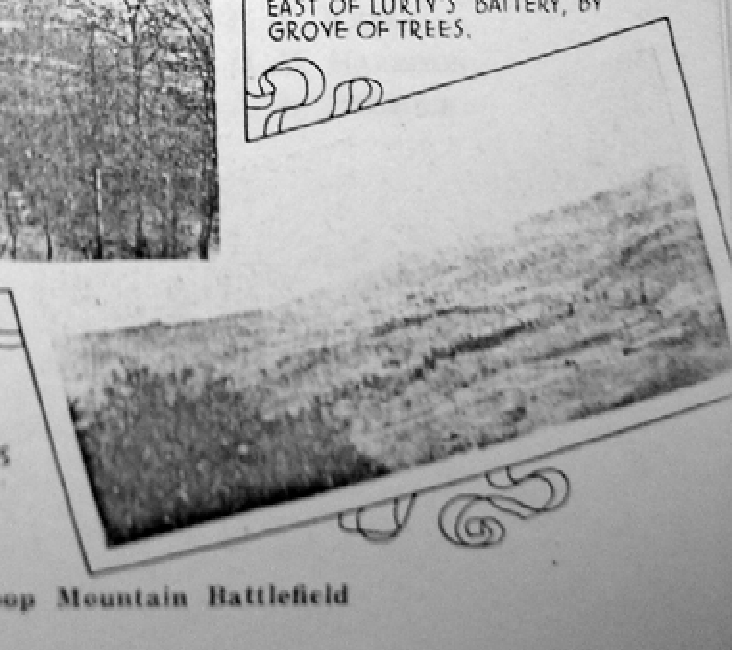
McCARTY FARM, SHOWING GORE'S GROVE AND STATE ROAD #24.

MARKER ON OLD ROAD, WHERE MAJOR BAILEY FELL WHILE TRYING TO RALLY THE 22ND VIRGINIA INFANTRY. STATE ROAD # 24.





EWING'S BATTERY, 320 POLES EAST OF LURTY'S BATTERY, BY GROVE OF TREES.



LOOKING FROM BREAST WORKS TO HILLSBORO, SHOWING YANKEE FLATS, AND WHITE HOUSE TO LEFT, GENERAL AVERELL'S HEADQUARTERS ON NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE.

Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

and the West Virginia Historical Society at a recent meeting, held in Charleston, passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved,* That we, the West Virginia Historical Society earnestly commend the Droop Mountain Battle Field Commission for their labors and zeal, in acquiring title to the land on which the battle was fought, and for the work that has been done and the effort that is being made for the improvement and beautifying one of the greatest natural scenic views of the State; and that funds should be appropriated to carry on the work that the Commission has begun.

"*Resolved,* That the thanks of the Society are hereby extended to Governor Gore for the aid he has given the Battlefield Commission in its work, and

"*Resolved, further,* That the memory of the brave men, of both armies, who fought the memorable battle of Droop Mountain, should be perpetuated for all time by monuments and parks, and the battle's history, and that the State should no longer neglect this historic battlefield in beautifying a spot, drenched with the blood of her own sons, around which cluster so many sacred memories of the dead."

Your Commission further reports that the land optioned is not complete, nor can it be made so, without acquiring the fifteen acres reserved. This your commission would recommend should be done, at a reasonable price, to be agreed upon by the parties in interest.

We wish to call special attention to the topography of the mountain. There is a straight ridge running north and south, through the greater part of the land optioned. This ridge is smooth and rises to the north and would make a fine field for airplanes to operate.

Another matter of special interest is an ancient lake that was discovered by the Chairman of your Commission. Its outline is plainly marked and shows it to have been a magnificent lake of water, but the countless ages have encroached upon its shores, until it is covered over with elder brush, moss and vines. Its waters flow out from the end of the lake, and with two small fills would, in all probability, be sufficient to impound the waters, to a depth of several feet, and a driveway around the lake would be about one mile in length, and we believe that the magnitude of the lake, covering about fifteen acres, would support millions of mountain trout.

Your Commission would recommend that the land optioned should be purchased and a deed obtained and the title to the fifteen

acres reserved should also be obtained and that an appropriation of $35,000.00 may be made for the payment of the lands and to carry on the work of improvement as rapidly as possible, and we would further recommend that the marketable timber on the lands be sold and that the ridge, hereinbefore referred to, should be made accessibl for flying machines; and also that the water of the lake should be impounded; and that suitable driveways and other attractive features be prepared as early as possible and that ultimately a great park may be established and maintained that would be equal at least to those in other states.

Your Commission would further recommend that your Excellency call the attention of the Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio to the very valuable service rendered by the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Schoonmaker, and the 28th Ohio Infantry, commanded by Colonel Moor, as these states might desire to perpetuate the memory of those brave men by a suitable monument or monuments placed on the battle lines where they fought.

Your Commission here expresses the belief that by the expenditure of a reasonable sum of money on the Droop Mountain Battlefield that it would become such an attractive resort and of a value to the State beyond estimation in dollars and cents, and that the same would produce a patriotic sentiment that would forever be blended and clustered around the field that holds so many sacred memories.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. D. SUTTON,
N. F. KENDALL,
R. F. KIDD,
M. M. HARRISON,
A. L. HELMICK.

The Droop Mountain Battle

(A paper prepared by John D. Sutton)

After the country was freed from Indian invasions and Virginia became established, the people began to look more to their financial affairs and public interests. It was not long until those west of the Alleghenys became jealous of their eastern brethren. Tobacco was the money crop of the east, raised by slave labor, whilst those west of the mountains depended for many years upon furs and ginseng as their principal commodity in trade. And as it has been from the beginning of time taxation began to be agitated. The great body of the east escaped very largely from their equal share of the burden, but controlled very largely the political affairs of the state. The western portion of the state was powerless. Their only relief was in separation. The Civil War afforded them that opportunity; hence when the war came on, 32,000 of the young men of Western Virginia joined the Union forces. Though they were living in a slave state the great majority refused to answer the call of Virginia, and when the 20th of June, 1863, came, and West Virginia was admitted as a state into the union, the defenders of the new state were determined to sustain and defend the state at whatever cost of blood and treasure. The south was as fully determined to retain the territory of the state, and to prevent the rending of the state—a state for which we all have the most profound love and respect. But a sacrifice had to be made and the battle was joined—a battle of separation. The best blood of Virginia and West Virginia, men who had met on many bloody battlefields prior to the great Battle of Droop Mountain, soldiers inured to hardship and dangers, not soldiers of fortune, not soldiers for spoil, but men in whose breasts was a living principle, a principle implanted in their youth by their fathers. At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on November 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General Wm. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force near Mill Point on the morning of the 5th and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there

General Skeen was the lieutenant of the company. He appeared to be the purchasing agent of the County Court, as he paid the bills for the army and took receipts therefor. Under date of June 25, 1861, he rendered an itemized account under expenses incurred on march of "Pocahontas Rescues," amounting to $68.68. It was allowed and $25 paid on account. He notes a balance of $43 68 due him, and I doubt if it was ever paid to him.

The big item of expense was $37.42 for shoes—nineteen pairs bought on May 23, at Philippi, from J. P. Thompson. The other items include bacon, tallow, flour, meal, horse feed, gloves, hats, cotton cloth, calico, socks, shirts, blankets and whatnot.

On May 20, at J. W. Marshall's store he bought a pair of gloves for Captain Stofer at 25 cents and six combs for privates for $1.00. Also 2 cravats, $1; 2 flannel shirts, $2; and 2 more pair gloves 50 cents.

On May 22, at Beverly, from A & B Crawford, two hats for $3.25. From J. Burket, also at Beverly, pair of shoes at $2 and 2 pairs socks 30 cents. On the same date from E. B. Bucher 12 1-2 pounds of tallow for $1.25 and 52 1 2 pounds of bacon at 14c, $8 35

On May 24, Elder Douglas was paid $4.33 for supper, lodging and breakfast for 13 persons.

On May 25, $2 50 is paid Jno. B Curin for Gilham tactics.

On May 17, Captain Stofer certifies that an account of Wm. H. Slanker for 9 yards of calico, 1 1-2 yards of bleach cotton, 8 3-4 yards of cotton drilling and one made shirt, in all $4 37 1 2 is correct and necessary for the use of said company.

Mr Skeen started off fine to keep a daily report on the progress of the "Pocahontas Rescues" but I guess he got too busy, for after three days, he quits in the middle of a page.

In speaking of this march, the old soldiers referred to it as the "Tin Cup Campaign." A cup was all the equipment furnished them. They provided their own arms.

The cavalry referred to was Captain Andrew McNeel's Company. On their return from Philippi, this company was disbanded and the men joined the 11th Virginia—Bath Squadron—and Captain Wm L. McNeel's and Captain J W. Marshall's companies, 19th Virginia Cavalry.

On the return of the Pocahontas Rescues, the company was disbanded and the men with a number of additions made up company I, 25th Virginia Infantry J. H. McLaughlin was elected first lieutenant.

This company was engaged in the following battles: Philippi, McDowell Winchester, Cross Keys, Port Republic Seven Days, Fight around Richmond, Slaughter Mountain, Second Manasses, Brestow Station, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Second Winchester, Gettysburg, Mine Run, and the Wilderness. At the Wilderness the 25th was captured; the Pocahontas Rescues and replacements had been reduced to seventeen men; of this seventeen, eleven lived through the war, six dying in prison.

The last member of Company I, to pass over that I know of was Captain J. W. Mathews, of Anthonys Creek, who died about twelve years ago.

Captain Stofer came from the Valley of Virginia. He was a lawyer, and he served as commonwealth's attorney for Pocahontas a number of terms. He had been a soldier in the Mexican war, and fought in a number of battles. My recollection is that Captain Stofer was not wounded in the war between the states until the battle of Cross Keys when he fell with five bullet holes in him. Every one of these wounds was considered mortal, but he recovered and survived the war some twenty years. As a child, I remember him as a friendly, courtly gentleman, known in his wide circle of friends as the "Count."

General William Skeene served as clerk of both the county and circuit courts. He was succeeded just before the war by the late William Curry. He was a resident attorney at Huntersville for many years. He was elected Attorney General of the State of Virginia.

I certainly do wish that General Skeene had written up the "Tin Cup Campaign" day by day, instead of quitting off on the record the evening of the third day.

You have got to hand it to the General that he was a considarable of a manager to march an army of fifty six men some ninety miles, and back on a campaign of several weeks, at a cost to Pocahontas County of only $68.68.

After the war Confederate soldiers were deprived of the rights of citizenship by their inability to take the test oath. Before a man could vote, hold office, practice law, etc., he must swear that he had not aided or abetted the Confederacy. This did not phase Captain Stofer a bit. At the first opportunity he presented himself at the bar as a practicing attorney, took the oath and resumed his law work where he left off after four years service in the army of the Confederate States of America. The grand jury indicted him for perjury, and he appealed to the Supreme Court, where the case dragged along for years. I presume that the case against the Captain just naturally went by the board when the new state went democratic in 1870, a new constitution adopted and the rights of the southern sympathizers restored. I will look that case up some day when I have the time. I have the impression that Count Stofer was defended by Spencer Dayton, a native of New England, father of the late Judge A. G. Dayton, of Philippi, United States District Judge. I do know that Mr Dayton successfully defended the numerous Confederate soldiers who were indicted for murder after the war, in this county.

My friend, the late Hugh P. McLaughlin, always took delight in relating his experiences as a boy on this "Tin Cup Campaign." Somewhere along the road to Philippi they came to a farm where there was a mowing machine with its tongue propped up, in a shed. Few of them had ever seen a mower, and word was passed down the ranks that it was a cannon. One boy took a good look at it, and remarked on the length of the ramrod!

Pocahontas Times
1/16/41

Juanita S. Dilley

Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

Rella Yeager

Big Educational-supervisor Camp-Price, Otho Workman Droop Mountain State Park

DROOP MT. STATE PARK

On top of picturesque Droop Mountain, about four miles from the little town of Hillsboro, in West Virginia, CCC Camp Price, Co. 2,598 have done some wonderful work on the State Park.

It was on this site that the greatest battle of the Civil War in West Virginia was fought about 72 years ago. It is said that the only brass cannon that this part of the confederate army had lies buried in a swamp within a stone's throw of the camp. Although 72 years have elapsed since the great battle, many signs and memoirs of it are left. While rambling through the woods one may find the old rock breastworks which were used by the Confederate and Union soldiers alike.

About three miles from the camp there is a large cave in which soldiers manufactured gun powder. It is now known as "Saltpetre Cave." Occasionally old grave markers are found.

Although there are signs posted along Route 219 showing the position of the great battlefield, it has not yet received much attention from tourists because of the seemingly impossibility of exploration, as not much can be seen from the highway. This is an ideal place for picnic's, as the CCC boys have built chimneys for camp cooking, and seats and tables, etc. and have made the site of the battle one of the better known parks in West Virginia. Roads and trails have been built that lead to views that are entrancing.

Visitors are always welcome.

Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas Co.
Chapter 4, section 4b-3

BATTLE OF BARTOW - October 3, 1861

There were three battles known as the battles of the Greenbrier Ford, which took place at Travelers Repose, now known as Bartow. One was October 3, 1861, one Oct. 31, 1861, the other Dec. 12, 1861. Since the first of these battles, the one of October 3, was the biggest one, that is the one we shall consider in this report.

The first year of the war saw five battles in the Upper Tract, as upper Pocahontas was usually called at that time. The reason being that the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike crossed the Greenbrier Valley at this place and it was one of the most important thoroughfares in the nation at the outbreak of the Civil War. It was well served by stage coach lines and it formed a favorite route for persons from the middle west who wished to go to Washington and other eastern points.

The political significance of Western Virginia seceeding from Virginia made the passage of the Allegheneys the most important spots to the military operations on both sides.

The Federal army had already occuppied Tygarts Valley in Randolph, and the Confederates hurried armies into the Greenbrier Valley in Pocahontas. Their foremost post was at Travelers Repose. The camp was called Camp Bartow in honor of Col Francis S. Bartow of the 7th Georgia Regiment who was killed in the battle of Bull Run in July 1861. The camp was commanded by Gen. H. R. Jackson of Georgia, who no doubt named it in honor of his friend.

Since the building of a small town on this old battle field, the postoffice once known as Travelers Repose was changed to Bartow.

The Federal Army was camped at White's Top of Shavers Cheat at an elevation of about 4,200 feet. About 20 miles east of them on the top of themain Alleghenev was camped the Confederates at an elevation of about 4,100 feet. The new soldiers w were trained in sight of each other on these high tops. They lay there for months in sight of each other, and during that time had had but one skirmish. That was when the Confederates had attempted to cross Cheat at night and had gotten lost.

Camp Bartow was at the foot of the mountains. All three on the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike. The Yeagers, Arbogasts, Slavens, Burners and Houchins who owned this section of the county were all secessionists. In fact there was hardly a Union man in the whole of Greenbank District. No where in the mountains were the Confederate States more solidly supported.

Gen. Reynolds at Whites Top had on Sept. 13, protected the left flank of the army at Elkwater, and he had kept Loring from passing so he decided to do some passing himself. He decided that he would march an army over and surround and subdue Staunton. He ordered his men to prepare four days rations each, and on the morning of Oct. 3, 1861 at one o'clock A. M. he put his forces in motion and they marched down the mountain to Durbin. He had about 5,000 troops and 6 batteries of big guns. His forces were: Howes' Battery, Loomis' Battery, Michigan Volunteer Battery, Daums' Battery, Virginia Volunteer Artillery.

24th, 25th, and 32 Ohio Regiments 7th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 17th Indiana Reg. of Infantry. Robinsons Ohio Cavalry. Greenfield Pennsylvania Cavalry, Brackman's Indiana Cavalry.

Opposed to them were the Third Arkansas, First Georgia, Twelfth Georgia, Twenty-third Virginia, Rices Battery, Schumakers Battery, and the 31st Virginian of which Captain J. C. Arbogasts Greenbank Company was made up of local people (Hope to have a complete list of this Co. soon)

The Federals got to Durbin about sun up and saw an advance guard under Col. Edward Johnson in front of them in or above the narrows which separates Frank from Durbin. They set up a cannon or two and fired at them. Johnson fell back and the Federals marched up the road and through the fields. Johnson had his horse shot and killed in this engagement. He held the column up for an hour and it was not until six cannon had opened on him and a flanking movement started to his right that he retired to the main works at Camp Bartow.

The Federal army placed two batteries in front of the Confederate breastworks. These batteries were 6 guns in the meadow about half way from the Burner house to the East Fork and 2 guns on the other side of the turnpike. The Confederate batteries were on a low hill just behind Travelers Repose, where there are embankments still plainly to be seen.

In addition Lieutenant Wooding placed a gun on the Turnpike directly in front of Travelers Repose, from which he fired 90 rounds that day point-blank at the enemy across the river bottom. The big guns kept up a steady firing from seven in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon. A rifle cannon the Confederates expected to do great damage was a disappointment for after the first few rounds the ball stuck and could not be dislodged until Sergt. Timothy H. Stamps could get there from Monterey. There was more powder burned in the big guns that day than at any other battle in the mountains. It was a great day for noise.

But all this cannon firing was meant to cover up infantry work. It will be remembered that the turnpike is an east and west road and that there is a north and south road paralleling the river. This Huntersville road comes to the turnpike at Travelers Repose.

Gen. Reynolds proceeded to send infantry against both ends of the Confederate breastworks. It looks like one could hardly call it a flanking movement for these detachments did not attempt to swing in wide circles. It was the plan to let the artillery keep everything hot along the turnpike, while his forces were to attack both ends of the confederate position.

Jackson evidently expected a wide flung encirclement for he had sent Johnson up the river for more than a mile, and he was clear above the place that the Federals attempted to cross.

Jackson entrusted the defense of his left (down the river) to Colonel Rust and his Arkansas troops. It will be remembered that the Federals had a right large order in that they had to charge across wide open fields, ford the river and climb a steep hill to take a fortified camp.

Rust marched down the road toward Greenbank until he had drawn away from the river and was on an elevation overlooking the river. He then marched by the end of the breastworks and took a station between the river and the breastworks, but before he could form his men, the Federal batteries commenced a rapid fire, and a regiment of infantry left the road at the Burner homestead and marched across the meadow; waded the river and climbed the hill. The Arkansas troops, however, met them at the crest of the hill and the regiment of infantry went back and marched up the hill on the other side of the road. This movement of the Federal troops moving first to the right, then to the left, puzzled the Arkansas commander. There seemed to be a discussion as to what the orders were. I was warned afterwards that there had been a misunderstanding of orders.

Col. Richardson saying. "My regiment is to attack on my right." "Not at all", said Col. Wilder, "You are to attack the enemys right". This confusion of orders marked the turning point of the battle. Now both regiments were in the same place, and it therefore permitted the whole power of the Confederate artillery to be directed to one place. The federals could not face the fire and retreated in great confusion. Both regiments went into the woods at the north of the turnpike and added to the confusion already in that quarter.

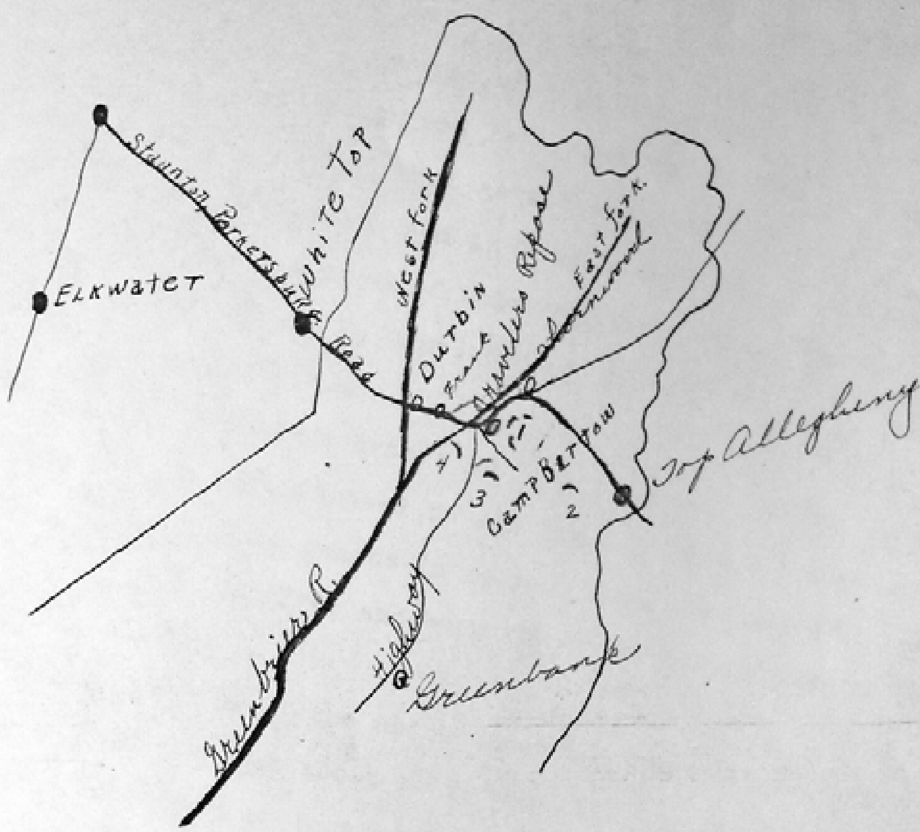
The Confederates called this one of the greatest victories of that year. The Federals called it a reconnissance in force.

Loss in killed and wounded, Federals 43, Confederates 52, including 13 missing. The Federals lost one stand of colors.

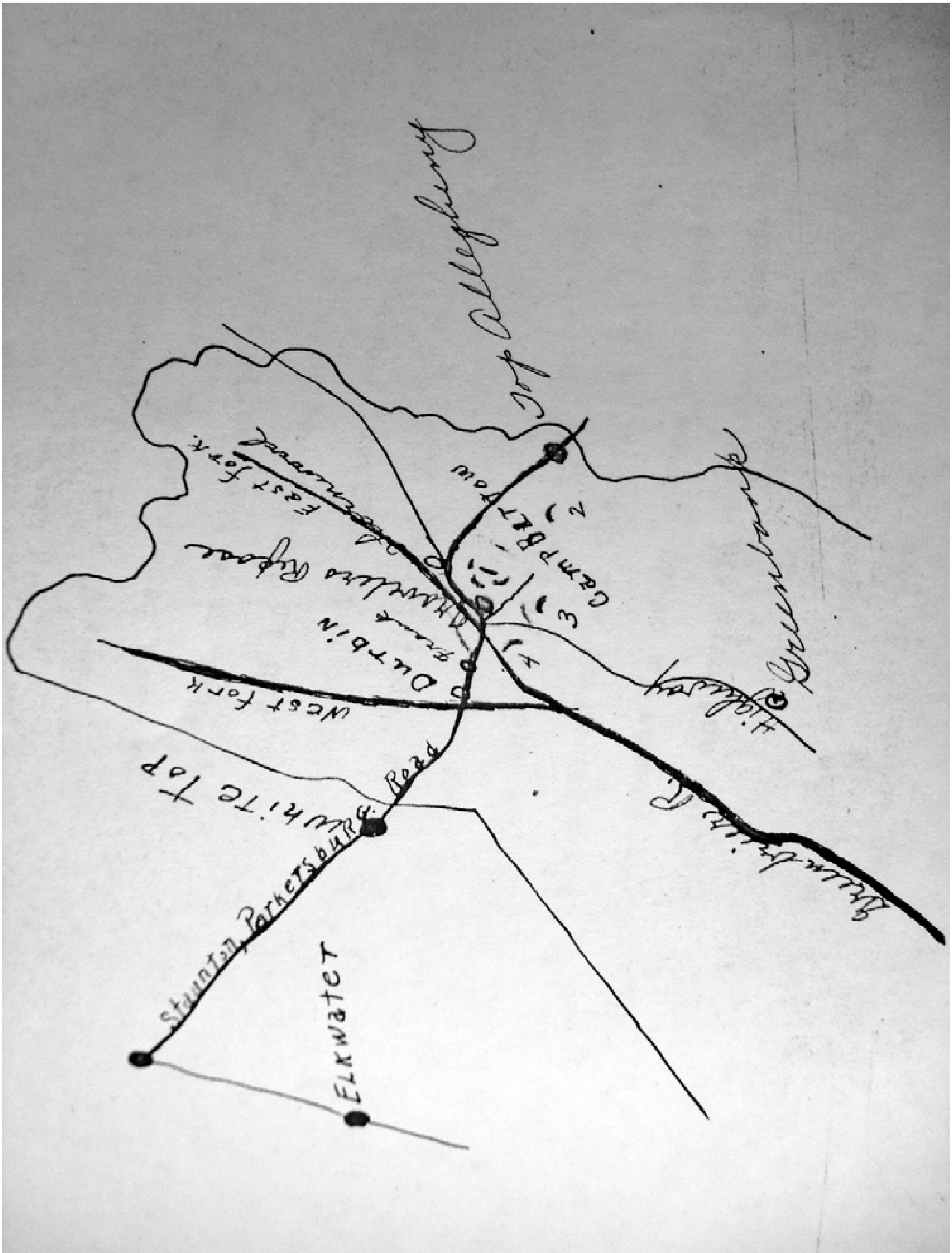
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Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Feb. 28, 1940



Field from where the Federals fought.
• Union fortifications
• Confederate fortifications
⌒ fortifications as they were placed on hills 1, 2, 3, 4, facing the turnpike. I was up there one day last week, and Mr. Beard, who now owns Travelers Repose, showed me these fortifications, which are still plainly seen.


Top Allegheny
Camp Bartow
Travellers Repose
Durbin
East Fork
West Fork
White Top
Staunton Parkersburg Road
Elkwater

Field from where the Federals fought.

Union fortifications

Confederate fortifications

fortifications as they were placed on hills 1, 2, 3, 4, facing the turnpike. I was up there one day last week, and Mr. Beard, who now owns Travelers Repose, showed me these fortification, which are still plainly seen.

Juanita Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.

BATTLE OF DUNCAN'S LANE

At the West Union School house at the foot of the mountain, on the road that leads to the Williams River country in 1864, lived Henry Duncan, in a double log house on the headwaters of Stony Creek. William Beverage lived about a quarter of a mile farther up the creek. Part of the passway between Duncan and Beverages was fenced on both sides as a lane. It was this lane that gave the battle its name.

The state was formed in 1863 and in 1864 a regiment of state guards was formed at Buchannon, and of this regiment Pocahontas furnished one company, captained at times by Capt. Samuel Young a minister, and later by Capt. Isaac Walton Allen.

This regiment had its headquarters at Beverley. These state guards were gallant soldiers and were exposed to all the perils and privations of the Civil War. However state guards in other states were placed, those in West Virginia were real soldiers and were the only state guards in the Union eligible for pension.

In 1864 the preservation of the union depended upon the reelection of Lincoln. A peace party had set about to defeat Lincoln, therefore, every vote counted. The county of Pocahontas was controlled by the Confederates, yet the little town of Edray was loyal to the Federal states. Therefore, it was determined by the West Virginia authorities to hold an election for president in the county. Arrangements were made to hold guard company was detailed to bring that election off.

They marched on foot from Beverly to Edray a distance of 54 miles coming by way of Elk and reaching Edray a few days before the election. On its wayin, the company camped near the headwaters of Elk River and one of theesoldiers, Washington Neff, obtained leave of absence to visit

his wife who was visiting at William Gibsons. Here he was captured by a squad belonging Captain J. C. Gays Company of Confederate scouts and was taken captive to their headquarters at the farm of Samuel Gay. (just above where the Fair ground now is). That night in an attempt to escape Neff was shot and killed. Word of his death reached the company at Edray. Captain Young was in command, Captain Walton Allen was there, too. Every member of the company was a Pocahontas Man. It had been recognized as very dangerous to send one company into Confederate Pocahontas and they were already apprehensive of being in the very heart of this county. The death of Neff impressed them further with the dangers of their position. By this time there was a terrible cloud hanging over Edray district, and a pitch battle was imminent to be fought between men who had grown up together, but who had been schooled for four intensive year in civil war. However, the polls were opened under the oak standing near the home of William Sharp.

The soldiers all voted irrespective of age, and many of the citizens of the vicinity voted also. The vote was solid for Lincoln.

Aaron Moore was chosen as messenger to take the votes into the northerwestern part of the state where the existance of the government of West Virginia wasrécognized. The company of state guards prepared to act as his guard. It was decided best not to return to Beverly by way of the pike (now Seneca Trail). The return was to be made by crossing the river at Marlins Bottom, by Huntersville, and the Hill country, by Dunmore and Greenbank to the Staunton and Parkersbung Turnpike at Travelers Repose, thence across Cheat Mountain. The company reached Marlins Bottom but when they came in sight of the bridge they saw a Confederate soldier at the end of the bridge on horseback. When the horseman saw the Union soldiers he turned and galloped away. This

was taken to mean that he was a picket on duty and had gone to give the alarm that the northern soldiers were coming. Realizing they were a small company and in a hostile country, and that they might be killed by ambush any minute, they decided to take to the mountains,. It turned out afterwards that the soldiers at the bridge was not a sentinel, but a deserter who was making his getaway to Buchannon.

The little army turned up Price Run and from there climbed Bucks Mountain. When they had reached the top of the mountain they ate a cold lunch and lay down to sleep without starting a fire. At daybreak they marched to the head of Dry Run and called at the home of Peter Beverage, a Union man and obtained food. Then they went to the home of William Beverage, a Confederate sympathiser. These two Beverages were brothers. At William Beverages they took a hive of honey and prepared for the noon day meal.

In the meantime, the Confederates were laying a plan to capture these Union soldiers. Captain J. C. Gay, holding a commission as captain under the confederacy, with authority to guard the border, summoned his forces and all Confederate soldiers home on furlough to his home. His command at Duncans Lane was made up of about half scouts and half regular soldiers home on furlough.

Godfrey and Adam Geiger of Stony Bottom were among the furlough soldiers to be called. They arrived at Gay's late the evening of the election. Next morning before daylight they were on the trail of the union soldiers. They arrived at William Beverages just in time to see the Union men in the act of taking the honey. The order to fire was given, and a volley let off. The result of which was a scattering of blue coats for shelter. Some went to the hillsides on either side of the hollow, some went down Duncans Lane and sheltered behind, Duncans house, and some to the knoll where the West Union school house now stands, and in this way gave battle.

Aaron Moore with the election returns ran up the hillside, and Godfrey Geiger says he would have been killed had he not been in citizens clothes, the rule being to shoot no one not in uniform.

At or about the first fire, Bernard Sharp, a son of William Sharp, fell mortally wounded. He was shot through both hips. Godfrey Geiger says he was carrying an army gun called a musketoon, which took paper catridges. He took aim at Capt. Young who was hiding in a passage between the two parts of the Duncan house. Young afterwards said that the bullet cut away the clothes across his chest. The two little armies continued to fire at each other for about one and one half hours, neither side making a charge.

The Union soldiers gradually withdrew and made their way in little squads to Beverly taking with them the election returns.

When the Confederates found the Union had left the place, they came down Duncans Lane, carried Bernard Sharp to Henry Duncan's house. They sent for a doctor and did what they could for him but he died in a few hours. Other Union soldiers seriously wounded, were John Armstrong, Moffett Walton, John E. Adkinson, William Kennison, James Rodgers, and Moffett Sharp who was shot in the mouth. McClure under the shadow of Red Knob and concealed. They were taken care of by the McClure family. There was no one hit on the Confederate side.

After the battle the Confederates took a bee hive from Henry Duncans and carried it to William Beverages to replace the one taken by the Union men. There seems to have been no cause other than Duncan was for the Union and Beverage for the Confederavy.

These are a part of the names of Pocahontas men who took part in the battle of Duncans Lane.

Union -

Captain Samuel Young
Walton Allen
Leiu. - William Kennison

p. John Armstron
Privates - William Hannah
William Gay
George Cochran
Clark Dilley
Jeremiah Dilley
Sheldon Hannah
Clark Kellison
Newton Wanless
Moffett Wanless
James L. Rodgers
Aaron Moore
J. B. Moore
Henry Pugh
Aaron Kee
Columbus Silva
Henry Sharp
Bernard Sharp
John E. Adkinson
George McKeever
Moffett Rodgers
Hanson Moore
Moffett Sharp

Confederates -

Captain - J. C. Gay
Privates- James Shannon
Jacob Simmons
Micheal Willerton
Godfrey Geiger
Adam Geiger
Azri White
Ban White
Charles Moore
Mathias Moore
James McLaughlin
George McLaughlin
Charles Jackson
Jacob Beverage
Harvey Lindsey
George Simmons
Hiram Dorman

No doubt this list is far from complete.

As a battle it does not rank high in the national issue to be decided other than it has a direct bearing on the election of Lincoln a second time.

I The Chronology of Events

1. Monday , November 4, 1864
State Troops arrived at Edray, Neff killed.

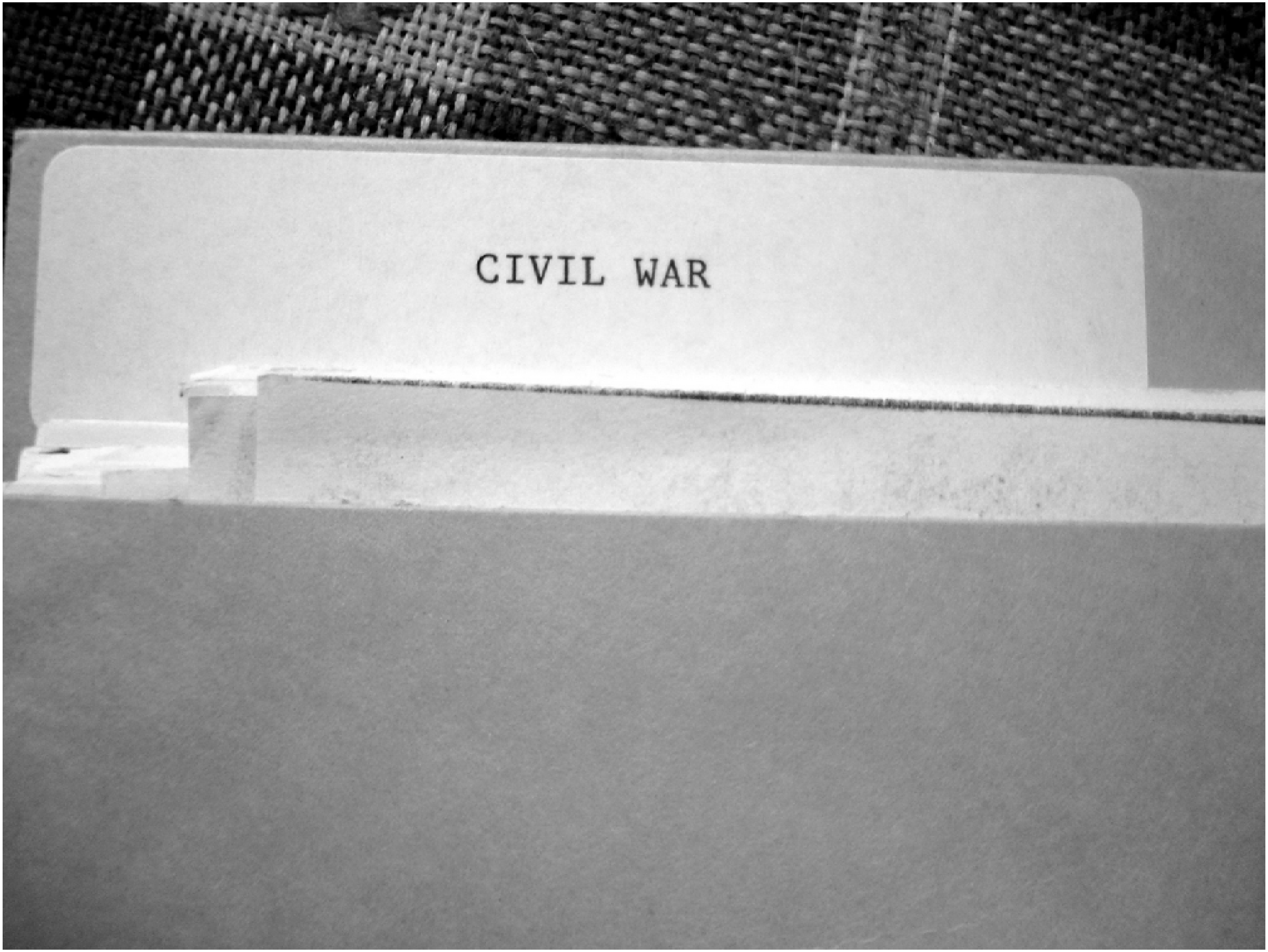
2. Tuedsay November 5, 1864
Election held at Edray

3. Wednesday November 6, 1864

Battle Duncans Lane

From - 1928 West Va. Blue Book

By Andrew Price


CIVIL WAR

Juanita S. Dilley
Pocahontas County
Ch. 4, Section 4b-3

BATTLES OF MARLINS BOTTOM AND HUNTERSVILLE

There use to be a covered bridge at Marlins Bottom (Marlinton) across the Greenbrier River. This was one of the bridges that came through the Civil War. Armies marched back and forth over this bridge and it figured in battles and retreats, but as it happened, never but once was an attempt made to destroy it an that time Mrs. Margaret Pooge Price was able to scatter the fire. That was during Averill's raid.

Years after the war, Andrew Price saw an old Confederate soldier, James Schisler of Greenbrier County examining the walls of the bridge. He said that he was looking for the loopholes he had used during the war.

So far as is known there was but one time that they had a battle near Marlins Bottom, though it was for months a fortified camp. The local people on either side did not understand what the controversy was about. All they knew was that there were soldiers stationed at the bridge and suddenly the bottom was full of blue coats, and that there was much firing and cavalry charging, that the Confederates retreated and the Yankees went away.

Dr. George B. Moffett in telling about it afterwards said, " Well, I thought I had a fairly fleet horse, but with all those bullets flying around me, it seemed like Gizzard could not run at all."

The day that the Yankees and Confederates sowed the bottom with minnie balls was January 3, 1862..

The war broke out in 1861 and for a time Pocahontas was the objective of both armies. The strength of our militia(the 127 Regiment) was 650 at the beginning of the war yet before June 10th over 500 had entered the Confederate army from Pocahontas. Robert E. Lee spent about two months here in the summer of 1861, between Huntersville and Linwood. For a time he used the Old Toll House at the end of the bridge at Marlins Bottom as his headquarters. (This building is still standing and was a few years ago made into a Tea Room by Mrs. Anna V. Hunter.)

...'s whereabouts in this county have been traced by letters he wrote while here..

At Huttonsville that winter the 25th Ohio was camped and with them was Major George Webster. General Milroy was in command of the forces and conceived a plan to let Major Webster have a chance to lead a small army into the Greenbrier Valley by way of Old Field Fork of Elk River to Marlins Bottom. It having been about two weeks since he had found the upper road blockedat Top Allegheney.

Webster entered upon his campaign with enthusiasm and he executed orders with neatness and dispatch. His little army was made up of 400 soldiers from his own regiment. They marched by the Elkwater fort and there he picked up 300 men from the Second West Virginia, and at Linwood he was joined by 38 of Brecken's Cavalrymen. He had loaded up his supply wagons and the army of 738 men moved south into the country of the enemy. He left Huttonsville December 31, 1861. On the evening of Jan. 2, 1862 he reached the place where the Crooked Fork of Elk turns to encircle the upper branch of the Gauley R. There they found the timber barricade cut into the narrow defile the fall before when Lee's army withdrew from the waters of the Elk to the waters of the Greenbrier. The trees were all cut for more than a mile. It was impossible to get his wagons through without losing too much time, so he left them there with fifty men to guard them. He took the path to the left on J.C. Gay's side of the blockade and he climbed the mountain early in the morning of Jan. 3, 1861.

When Webster got to the top of Elk Mountain on the Gay place he could look down the valley of the Greenbrier and see the tents of the company who had started to winter on the Ingem Patch, that part of Marlinton now occupied by the Union Tanning Co. Another company (Louisiana) was camped down the river on the west side where the old Price Place is.

Marlins Bottom was fortified against invasion from the north. The old road came up a little hill and dropped down to the bridge head. On top of this hill was a c annon. A part of the embankment can still be seen. On the east of the river on the bank was a trench of rifle fire entending the length of what is now the Tannery Row of tenement houses, with another cannon styled where the road topped the bank from the Marlin ford. These fortifications commanded the turnpike for a distance of about 400 yards, and made the road extremely dangerous as a passway.

Webster marched his command down Elk Mountain, through the loyal village of Edray,

cross Drinnon's Ridge to the rebel settlement of Marlins Bottom. At the mouth of Stony creek, he stopped long enough to sent a squad of cavalry across the river, and they galloped down the east bank of the river and to the Huntersville road firing and acting outrageous to attract attention while Websters infantry came on down the west of the road. The cavalry coming in behind the Confederates caused them to stampede. Most of them made across the bridge to the west and fled into the woods. This engagement while a very noisy one resulted in no loss by death or wounding on either side. All they lost was their wind. It hardly halted the advance of the Federals. They crossed the bridge and advanced on to Huntersville driving before them some mounted Confederates. Huntersville had seen some big armies during the year of 1861, and when Lee left everything in charge of Loring, the Confederates made Huntersville their headquarters for all their activities in this part of the country.

Webster had left Captain Johnson with 50 men to guard the wagons at the barricade on Elks. Now he left Captain Williams with 50 men to guard Greenbrier Bridge.

When Webster arrived at the ford of Knopps Creek, near the home of Joe H. Buzzard, he found the Confederate cavalry on the south side of the creek in a level field, their line extending up and over a hilly spur that jutted out into the field. Webster sent a detachment up the mountain to turn the confederate's right while the rest of his command marched upon their front and firing became general on both sides. But the confederates seeing that the Federals were encircling them fell back and formed a new line of battle on Cummings Creek near Huntersville. The picket coming in from Marlins Bottom had reported the Federal forces to be about 5000 men.

Webster crossed the creek at Buzzards, topped the little spur and finding that the Confederates were in battle line on Cummings Creek sent two companies to his right through the woods, and the Brocken Cavalry to the left toward the creek. The rest of the troops advanced forward. After some firing the Confederates mounted their horses and retreated to the town. As the Federals entered Huntersville the Federals entered Huntersville on the west side the Confederates left by the east side. When Webster marched into Huntersville he found it deserted. Not a soul was living there. The courthouse, jail, stores and houses were all vacant. War had come too close to them, and the county seat and largest town was abandoned by its population. It remained in this condition for most of the war, and the soldiers used the Presbyterian church for a camp, and the houses were abused. Windows

June 19, 1940 Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

were broken, doors left swinging. An old timer said that Huntersville which had been the scene of so much social life and gayety became one of the dreariest sights he had ever seen.

The people had abandoned the town because they had been told by the Confederates that if they were beaten the Federals would burn the town. When the town was captured Jan 3, 1862, large stores of army supplies were found stored there. There were 350 barrels of flour, 150,000 pounds of beef, 30,000 pounds of salt and large quantities of sugar, coffee, rice, bacon and clothing. Not being able to move anything fire was set to the stores and they were destroyed. The Confederates had fallen back to Monterey Va. The Federal loss was one man shot in the arm. The Confederates loss was one man killed and 7 wounded. The number of Confederates engaged was about 400 regular cavalrymen, and s everal hundred citizens recruited the day before, and two companies of infantry. In the meantime, at Camp Baldwin on the Allegheney, Gen. Edward Johnson was filled with apprehension. His scouts had reported the forward movement of the Federals to be about 5,000 men and Johnson thought they would circle around by Huntersville, Frost, and Crab Bottom and attack him from his base at Monterey.

But having destroyed the confederate supplies at Huntersville Webster turned and marched his men back to his wagons that night in the driving rain, having fought two engagements and marched something like 28 miles on foot. That was a big days work. It took one and one-half hours to drive the Confederates a mile, and he was in Huntersville two hours destroying supplies.

It was no wonder the local people did not understand the movements for even the Confederate commanders did not know what was happening to them. Websters return from Huntersville was what they had not counted on. They went on the basis that a big army was on the move, and expected it to march on to White Sulphur, Millboro, or Monterey. But the little Federal army marching so jaunty with their yound commander had no notion of penetrating farther into the strongholds of the Confederates than any Union army had reached up to that time. Webster had swept the country clean as he went along, and had extricated his army with much neatness and dispatch.

On Jan. 6, 1862 they were back in their old headquarters at Huttonsville. It was as fine a campaign as ever a set of youngsters put over. Webster was there and back again

with all his men and horses intact, having carried fire and sword into a hostile country, and marched 106 miles in six days.

He threw a scare into the Confederates that made their lines quiver from Huntersville to Winchester and from Top Allegheney to Staunton.

Scouts rode headlong in every direction carrying dispatches. They seem to have agreed on the strength of the Federal army as being 5,000 men instead of the 738 that it actually was.

From--1928 West Virginia Blue Book

by Andrew Price

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas, County.

Battle of Top Allegheny

Dec. 13, 1861.

The battle of Top Allegheney was fought in Pocahontas county on December 13, 1861 between the forces of the Union under General R. H. Milroy, and the forces of the confederates under General W. W. Loring. Col. Edward Johnson commanding.

The two companies had camped within sight of each other since July 13, 1861 the day the Federals had occupied Whites Top of Cheat. For five months they had watched each others camp fires rise. During this five months they had fought the battle at Travelers Repose on Oct. 3 and had also had another skermish at this same place on Oct. 31, 1861. Both times the Federals had been driven back to their camp on Cheat Mountain.

There had been other minor skermishes throughout the summer and Autumn. The Federal camp was known officially as Camp Cheat Mountain Summit. The Confederate camp was known as Camp Baldwin, in honor of a confederate soldier of that name. Between these two camps was Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose. The Confederates had made a winter camp on top Allegheney Montain by erecting log cabins.

As you go along the road now you can see piles of stone at regular intervals which represent the chimneys of the cabins. You can see the trenches and fortifications on Allegheney also at Cheat and Bartow. The top of Allegheney is a wind-swept pasture land, and the pike lies for some miles through this level table-land. In making the attack, the Federals had to climb up the side of the mountain and fight on the top of this table-land.

The advance on December 12th found Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose deserted, but Mayor D. H. Ross of the 52nd Virginian had been dispatched to that point with 106 men to form an ambuscade on the road between Durbin and Bartow.

When the Federals came up, Ross and his men fired on them and killed 10 and wounded a number of others. The Federals advanced in great force and Ross was forced to retreat. He reached Camp Baldwin that night.

Ambrose Bierce was with the Federals. He says they marched all day down Cheat Mountain and all nigh up Allegheney Mountain. That the firing at the foot of the mountain haolted them for a time, but after the Confederates retreated they reached Travelers Repose. There they divided. About half of them marched down the road toward Greenbank and turned at the Uriah Heavener farm and climbed the road that is still used as a short cut between Saulsbury Run and Buffalo Run. The other half continued up the pike.

As the battle was scheduled to begin before day break those killed at Bartow were not buried but laid on the upper side of the road and covered with blankets. As the soldiers passed that way many of them stopped to see if they could recognize a friend among the dead.

The next day as they returned from the battle ground defeated and approached the place where the dead lay it seemed they had moved and cast aside their covering. But upon investigation they found a drove of hogs had been at the bodies and eaten the faces off the dead. The hogs were killed and the dead buried."This scene is described in Iconoclastic Memories of the Civil War-Ambrose Bierce".

When the turnpike gets to within a mile of the top of this mountain, it makes a sharp turn to the south and from there it climbs gently to the top where it passes a church. The Federal army lift the pike at this curve and climbed directly up the hillside hoping to get behind the camp. But there were pickets out and the camp was alarmed by their shots around 4 o'clock that morning. The Confederates marched several companies out to meet the Federals as they came ot the top. The Federals waited in the edge of the forest until near daylight and then marched into the open field and then the firing became general.

The Confederate line swung back and forward, and at one stage of the battle their right flank was driven to take shelter in their log cabins. There was fighting all over the top until mid afternoon, The half of the army which had swung to the south and was advancing up the crest of Buffalo Ridge failed in its purpose of surprising the camp. On that side of the camp there were trenches prepared to guard both roads and there was also some good artillery.

These trenches were full of soldiers prepared for an emergency. However, when the Federals first appeared, Captain Anderson of the Lee Battery thought it was a band of pickets being driven in. He sprang upon the side of the trench and called to them to hurry up and get into the trenches. He was instantly shot and killed.

Finally about mid afternoon a retreat was sounded and the Federal army made its way back to camp Cheat Mountain. The Confederates reported that 1,200 Confederates had repulsed an army of 5000 men. That it was a great battle and a great victory.

The Federals reported that they had 1,760 men and the Confederates had 2,500, and that it was a reconnaissance in force. J. P. Benjamin, Sec. of War, wrote that Presdent Jefferson Davis having been informed of the valor of Col. Edward Johnson in repulsing a vastly superior force was much gratified at the news of success, and had made him a brigadier general.

The losses of the battle were: Federal-dead 20, wounded 107, missing 10, total 137.

Confederate- dead 20, wounded 98, missing 28, total 146. After this battle the troops wentinto winter quarters, and there was no more fighting on the Staunton and Parkersburg turnpike that winter.

From - W. Va. Blue Book 1928
By, Andrew Price.

According to the old timers who have heard relatives tell about their winter in camp on the Allegheney, they were about to starve.

Roy McPaters says he has heard his uncle J. Martin tell how they went out once and killed a sheep belonging to a near by farmer. That they were so hungry that they ate it when only half cooked and then fought over the skin . At another time they broke into a cellar where a woman had her ox hid. They cut its throat and took the meat back to camp.

Ambrose Bierce tells of hunting bear on Cheat Mountain when the snow was up to his arms. Whether he hunted for pleasure or to obtain food I do not know. Also I've been told by Lee Ervin, who had several uncles from Bath Co. in Camp Baldwin, that the reason they were so well prepared to repulse this Federal army was because they could see them as they marched down Back Allegheney and knew they were coming for an attack. Therefore, had all in readiness.

NYM/W

June 19, 1940 Nelle Y. McLaughlin

Juanita S. Dilley
March 11, 1940

BATTLES OF MILL POINT AND

DROOP MOUNTAIN

In November 1863 there were no Confederate forces of any size anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley. That was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, some 170 miles, by between four and five thousand soldiers, protecting Virginia from attack from the west.

General Kelly, in command of the department of West Virginia, gave orders to General Averill at Beverly and General Duffie at Gauley Bridge to send armies to meet at Lewisburg and drive the Confederates out of the Greenbrier Valley.

Averill came into Pocahontas by the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike and turned south at Travelers Repose. At that time the Confederate troops were stationed as follows: At Glade Hill in the upper part of the county was Captain W. L. McNeel's Co., At Edray, Captain J. W. Marshall was in charge of a detachment watching the Marlins Bottom and Huttonsville Turnpike; Col. W. W. Arnett had a regiment at Marlins Bottom in comfortable log houses getting ready to winter there; Colonel W. L. Jackson had the main part of his regiment the 19th Virginia Cavalry at Mill Point; Col. W. P. Thompson was away with a part of his regiment on an expedition to Nicholas County and had gotten as far as Cold Knob in Greenbrier Co., Gen. Echols had the main part of the troops at Lewisburg.

McNeel's Co., at Glade Hill discovered the Advance of Averill and sent a messenger to warn Arnett at Marlins Bottom of the Advance. Averill moved swiftly, and but for this courier getting through would have surprised the Confederates in their camps. As it was the McNeel Soldiers got too close and four were captured, and John Adam McNeel had his horse shot and he got a broken leg out of it. The main camp of McNeel's Co. was cut off and they escaped by going up Galfords Creek and crossing the Allegheney Mountains to the waters of Back Creek.

Arnett got his men out of Marlins Bottom by the skin of his teeth as it was. He sent a horse soldier (cavalryman) to tell Captain Marshall at Edray that he was going to barricade the road on Price Hill, and for him to march the back way and come to the road on top of Price Hill. Arnett cut a lot of trees across the Price Hill road and dug some of the road away on that sliding hillside. The exciting days for this county were Wednesday, Nov. 4, Thursday Nov. 5th; and Friday Nov. 6, 1863. Then it was that the biggest battle ever fought in Pocahontas occurred. Arnett left Marlins Bottom at sun down on Wednesday and Col. Ohley moved into his deserted log cabins at dusk.

There was only one road between Marlins Bottom and Mill Point, and Averill with his army at Huntersville had laid a plan to capture Arnett's forces by sending Ohley down the pike to get Arnett started south while Col. Harris moved his forces down Beaver Creek to get ahead of him and block the road at Marvin Chapel where the two roads unite. This plan would have succeeded but for Col. W. P. Thompson who had been recalled from Cold Knob with his cavalry and was unsaddling at his old camp on the John S. Kellison farm when Jackson's courier rode up and told him to hold the Beaver Creek road. Thompson immediately went to Beaver Creek, and spent the evening cutting trees across the road. He fell back firing as he went. This delayed the Federal Army to such an extent that Arnett got by.

On this expedition, Averill had with him some signal experts. It was arranged that the main corps would stay at Huntersville, while others went on to Marvin Chapel where they were to send up rockets to communicate the position and success of Col. Harris and his troops.

Merritt went to the top of the hill at Huntersville to observe the signals and Dernicke went on with troops to report. It was arranged that the rockets were to be sent up at 8 P. M. and Merritt waited on top of the knob until 10 P. M. and seeing no rockets he went back to headquarters. It afterwards appeared that Dernicke was not able to send up his rockets until 11 P. M. and they were not observed at Huntersville though the Confederates saw them red against the sky. They

were a sort of a new departure in mountain warfare. Thompson and his blockading tactics had interfered with the march so much that the army was three hours late.

Thursday Nov. 5, 1863, was Mill Point day. Mill Point has never been given the credit for the baptism by fire that she had that day because what occurred next day at Droop Mountain, five miles south, has overshadowed it to such a great extent.

There was enough powder burned that day at Mill Point to fight a great battle. The Federal armies were at Stephen Hale Run and on the hill between that run and Mill Point. The Confederates formed a battle line along the banks of Stamping Creek for a mile or more, and their artillery was on the hill just south of Mill Point. When then guns began to thunder it occurred to Jackson that his battle line was just the right distance from the Federal batteries to be in range of grape shot and he withdrew his army by having them slip silently up the stream until they were hid by the bend of the mountain, and he took them out by the flint pits near Tom Beards. Having gotten his troops under way, he looked up to the long smooth summit of Droop Mountain and decided to take his stand there. By nightfall he was in camp on the crest looking down on the Federal army as they kindled their fires in the broad fields of the Little Levels.

On that Thursday the Federal troops at Marlins Bottom got word to cut out the blockade and move on to Mill Point. Before they left, they burned the log cabins the Confederates had planned to winter in.

On that Thursday, too, General Echols at Lewisburg heard that Gen. Duffie with an army was covering him from Gauley Bridge, and Averill was coming from Beverly, so he got busy. He sent a regiment west on the Midland Trail to hold Duffie. He moved the remainder of his army to Pocahontas. That day he marched his men fourteen miles and went into camp at Spring Creek. The arrangements were to reinforce Jackson who was to fall back until Echols could join him. That night, message was received by Echols that the Federal army was much larger than they had thought at first, and that there would be a battle next day on top of Droop Mountain.

This was no night to sleep. Echols got his forces under way at two o'clock and reached Droop Mountain at nine o'clock that same morning. This was a record march.

28 miles over mountain roads. But when they came back that same night they made it in eleven hours. These mountain men marched 56 miles in 42 hours, and had wasted 7 hours fighting a battle. They never even hesitated when they reached Lewisburg for Duffie was due there that morning.

On Friday morning Nov. 6, 1863 Echols, Arnett and Marshall also Jackson and Thompson, Echols commanding, with an army of around 5000 soldiers were encamped at the foot of the mountain. He was in plain sight of the Confederates on the mountain and it was impossible to march up the mountain and attack from the front without being seen. Therefore, he sent Col. Augustus Moore, of the 28th Ohio Regiment, and Col. T. M. Harris, of the 10th West Virginia, to make a flanking movement and attack the Confederates from the rear. Averill made gestures of attack from the front while Moore and Harris with about 1000 soldiers went over the mountain and through the woods to attack in the rear.

Most of us have grown up with the idea that the Confederates neglected to guard their left flank and that they were taken by surprise, but a study of the official dispatches on both sides do not bear out that theory. It seems that no less than four detachments were sent against this attack and that they fought a long and bloody battle for about a mile through the thick forest and underbrush on top of the mountain. And what is more, instead of being surprised by the flanking movement, a Confederate soldier fired the first shot. This soldier said, "We were lying in the woods watching for the Federals to advance and the first we saw of them was when a soldier showed his head over a rail fence. This was the first soldier killed at the battle of Droop Mountain.

Moore says that "the Confederates raised at this fence and poured a devastating fire into his men. This was the critical moment, had his men broken at this surprise the battle would have been lost. The men were commanded to lie down, and in a few minutes Col. Harris's regiment joined him and they went forward fighting every inch of the way, arriving at last at the cleared hill where the rebel artillery was."

The battle hung in the balance as the fight went on in the west of the woods. The Confederate commander Echols knew of the importance of that movement. He sent Capt. Marshall's forces in there first. It was reinforced by Col. Thompson and some more companies of the same regiment. Then the 23rd Virginia Battalion was ordered into the woods on the extreme left to support Thompson. Then Col. Gibson with four companies of the 14th Virginia Cavalry (Cochran's regiment) were ordered into the woods where the fighting was heaviest. And finally a picked body of troops from three companies of the 22nd, including Capt. James McNeill's Nicholas Blues, were placed under Capt. John K. Thompson and they plunged into the fatal woods and by a desperate charge actually stopped the advance but the next wave went over them.

Averill marched up the mountain from the front when he detected the fighting in the rear. When his men reached the top of the mountain the Confederate forces broke and ran. The Federals fought a stern chase battle with them for hours.

Those who have made a study of troop movements which culminated in the Battle of Droop Mountain say that General Echols had no time to stay and fight it out with Averill when he knew another Union army was coming to cut off his rear by way of Lewisburg. He was in a trap and it was up to him to get his army out before it could be sprung.

It was a far more reaching victory than the Richmond government was willing to admit, for it was the last stand in a way that the Confederates made in West Virginia. The retreat took them well down to Dublin, and no rebel army was assembled here after that time. This was the turning point of the war so far as the mountains were concerned.

It was fought by troops from the two Virginias with one regiment each from Ohio and Pennsylvania. It broke the power of the Confederates and determined the control of the western part of Virginia.

Gen. Echols reported that the only trophy the Federals could boast of was the capture of a brass cannon. This cannon was a twelve pound howitzer or sling and was the pride of the Confederate army, but it had been injured in a battle at White

Sulphur Springs the summer before, and since it could not be used it was buried and a log rolled over the place to hide it. So far as is known this cannon was never found, though it is believed to be buried on the McCoy land.

Captain John Johnson lost an eye in this battle. It was his third wound. He was mentioned in the dispatches for his bravery and courage. He said that it was the hottest fire he ever experiences. Captain Marshall and Captain Hutton, also Leiut. John G. Beard of Pocahontas County received honorable mention in the dispatches.

As the Federal army returned over the Seneca Trail to Beverly they were fired upon by a troop of about 60 confecerate soldiers near the top of Elk Mountain. Bushwhackers these soldiers were called. (Prices History of Pocahontas).

It was here that Colonel Cochran of Virginia made his famous escape. He was apparently in the power of a squad of Union soldiers. When asked why he did not surrender he said, "If they had said, "Col. surrender!" I would have done so; but they yelled, "Stop you -----red headed son of a gun!" and I would not accommodate anyone who would use such language to me.

Averell's full name was

William Woods Averill

I've found his name spelled Averil, and Averell, but I believe Averill is correct. This material was taken from 1928 W. Va. Blue Book. History of Pocahontas, Pocahontas Times Nov. 14, 1935.

June 19, 1940

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Inventory of Materials Potential

Date: Victory W. Va.

Title: The Battle of Droop Mountain

Author: Rella F. Yeager

Status: Complete **Date Submitted:** ________ **Length:** 950 **Words**

Editor: ________

Contents: Complete ~~statement~~ on the Battle of Droop Mountain. Gives date & place, military units of Federals & Confederates, description of battle, result.

Source:

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Reliability:

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Folder: ________

THE BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN.

The battle of Droop Mountain was fought on the 6th day of November, 1863. The confederate forces consisted of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Colonel George Patton (of Kanawha Kounty, afterward killed at Winchester), Commanding; the 19th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. P. Thompson Commanding; the 20th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. W. Arnott Commanding; the 14th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel James Cochran, Commanding; Jackson's and Chapman's Batteries, and Edgar's and Derrick's Battallions. The entire force was under command of General John Echols. This force, on the first day of the month, was lying at Meadow Bluff, in Greenbrier County.

The federal force was composed of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, 23rd and 24th Ohio Infantry, the 5th, 6th, and 10th, West Virginia Infantry, and one battery of Artillery. This force had been stationed at Beverly in Randolph County. The federal force was under command of Geheral W. W. Averell.

The movement of the two armies preceding this battle have been traced by competent authority to have been as follows: In the first week in November, 1863, General Averell ordered General Duffie to meet him him at 2 p. m., November 7th, at Lewisburg, and Duffie marched from Kanawha, 120 miles. Averell marched from Beverly and had 110 miles to go. Averell reached Lewisburg on Saturday November 7th, at 2 p. m., and found that Duffie had got there at 10 a. m.

Averell left Beverly on Sunday and came over Cheat mountain by way of Cheat Bridge and marched by Camp Bartow, where they left the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike and took the road leading by Greenbank to Huntersville.

They reached Huntersville on Wednesday at noon, and there Averell heard that Col. W. P. Thompson, with the 19th Virginia Cavalry, was at Marlins Bottom, at the Greenbrier Bridge. Averell sent the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry and the 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry down Beaver Creek to ford the river eight miles ~~xxxxxxx~~ south of Marlinton to cut off Thompson at Stephen Hole Run on the Marlin-Lewisburg Turnpike, and sent the 2nd and 8th West Virginia mounted infantry to Marlinton with Ewing's Battery. Thompson, apprehending his danger, left in a hurry and cut a barricade of trees across the pike on Price Hill, a mile or so distant from the bridge, and beat the federal forces to the pike at Stephen Hole Run and joined up with the confederate troops in the Levels and there turned and stopped the advance. There was some cannon firing that day across the valley of Stamping Creek at Mill Point. Averell, at Huntersville, got word in the night time from his command at Marlinton and from Stephen Hole Run, that Thompson had escaped the trap.

Averell moved his Huntersville army down Beaver Creek, Thursday, starting at 3 a. m. and reaching Mill Point at 8 a. m. He had ordered the Colonel in charge of the Marlinton army to cut out the barricade on Price Hill and join him at Mill Point, and both wings of the army arrived at Mill Point at the same time. The effect of this was to put the Confederates in motion and they retired from the plains around Hillsboro to the heights overlooking that town, and erected embankments and fortifications on the brow of the mountain overlooking the Levels where the pike tops the mountain going south.

Averell says [illegible] did not attack on Thursday, when he came upon [illegible]

Commanding, the 14th Virginia Cavalry, Colonel [illegible] Battallions. The entire Chapman's Batteries, and Edgar's and Derrick's Battallions. This force, on the first force was under command of General John Echols. This force, on the first day of the month, was lying at Meadow Bluff, in Greenbrier County.

The federal force was composed of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, 23rd and 24th Ohio Infantry, the 5th, 6th, and 10th, West Virginia Infantry, and one battery of Artillery. This force had been stationed at Beverly in Randolph County. The federal force was under command of Gebceral W. W. Averell.

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Averell says that the reason he did not attack on Thursday, when he came upon the Confederates in the Levels was that he was thirty four miles from Lewisburg and that if he drove his enemy forward that day they would get by Lewisburg before ~~Duffie~~ Duffie would have arrived from Kanawha.

On Thursday then about all that was done was to try to go around the Confederates and cut them off from the mountain, but Jackson beat them to it and left the Levels to be occupied by Averell.

Averell got his troops into position before daylight the next morning. He sent the 14th Pennsylvania to the left and they took up their stand near the Locust Creek bridge and appeared to be ready to charge up the mountain. Keeper's Battery was placed on the high ground above [illegible]

G. C. & GEORGIA A. BEARD.

Note dated April 6th, 1934, for $10,000.00, due August 6th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 16th, 1924, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	$10,000.00
Interest from 8-6-1934 to 1-1-1935	241.64
Total	$10,241.64

Your Commissioner reports that the liens of the Bank of Marlinton and G. C. and Georgia A. Beard are of equal dignity, both being secured by the same deed of trust, the Rockbridge National Bank of Lexington, Virginia, having assigned its lien by virtue of said deed of trust to G. C. and Georgia A. Beard.

LIENS OF THE THIRD CLASS.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK OF MARLINTON.

Note dated April 14th, 1934, for $5,360.00, with a credit of $60.00, due July 14th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 15th, 1926, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	$5,300.00
Interest from 7-14-1934 to 1-1-1935	148.10
Total	

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Interest from 7-14-1934 to 1-1-1935	148.10
Total	$5,448.10

LIENS OF THE FOURTH CLASS.

H. KELMENSON.

Hill and commenced to fire on the batteries on top of the mountain. Owen's Battery was placed on the left of the pike between Hillsboro and the foot of Droop Mountain. Gibson's Battalion and the 10th West Virginia were held in or near Hillsboro on the pike. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th, West Virginia Regiments were placed to the right of the pike about the Renick place, out of sight of the Confederates on top of the mountain. The 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and one company of the 14th, Pennsylvania, in all 1175 men, were sent by the long nine mile detour to the right by Lobelia, and while they started long before daylight they did not reach the battle field until 1:45 p. m. In the meantime a great deal of cannon firing had been going on.

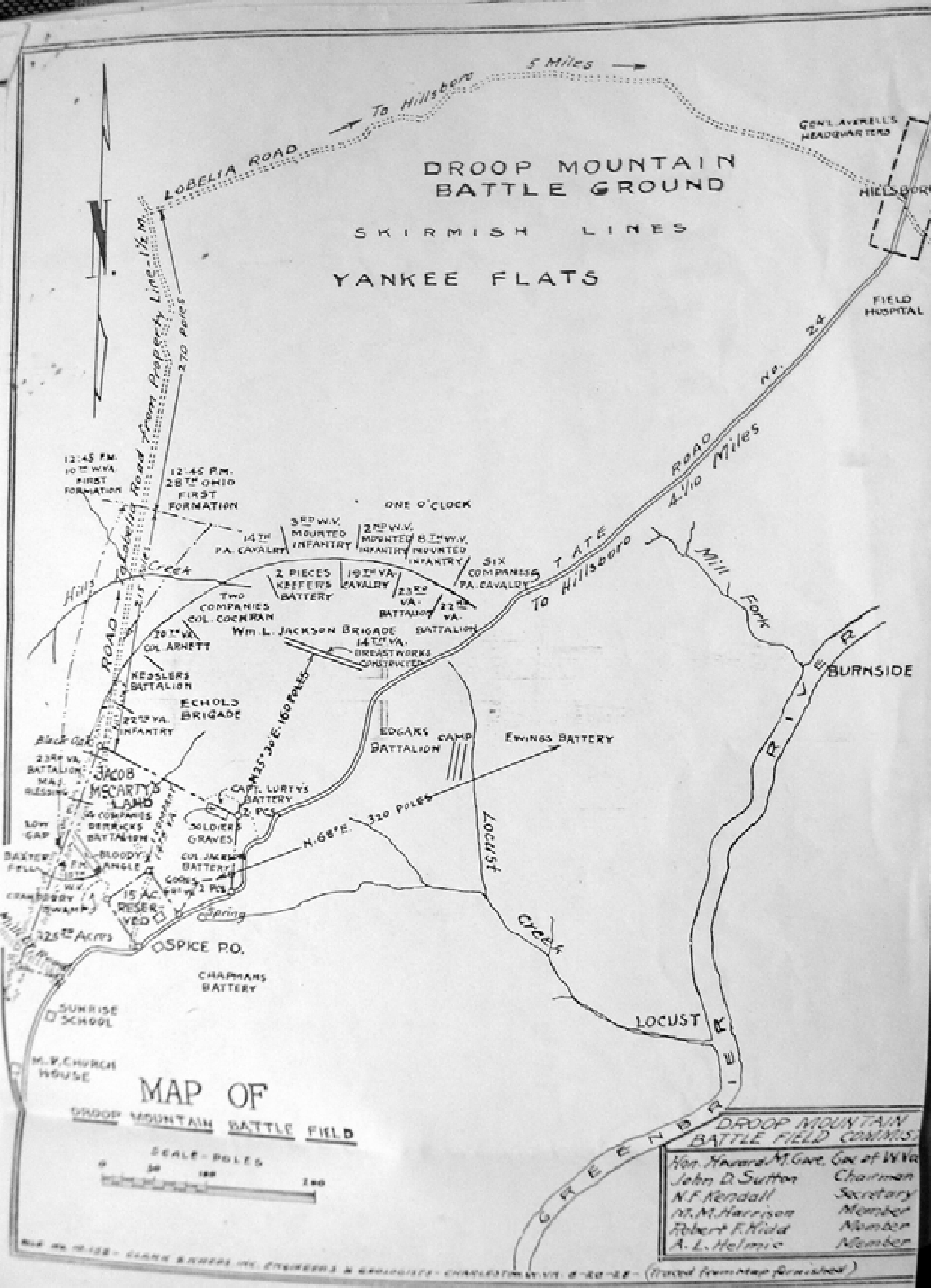
About nine o'clock, the Confederates announced by cheers and by band music, and by the display of flags, that Major General Echols had brought his army up. This must have caused Averell some apprehension considering the position he held with the Confederates holding the mountain top. He had not attacked the day before for good and sufficient reason. We shall see later how he won on this day with the odds against him.

The Confederate line of position was as follows: Edgar's Battalion on the river road to Greenbrier. On the farmland on the brow of the mountain where the battle was fought was the 22nd Virginia Cavalry; 19th Virginia Cavalry; 20th Virginia Cavalry; 14th Virginia Cavalry; Derrick's Battalion; Jackson's Batteries. On the Lobelia-Jacox road: Nobody. The failure to guard the road leading in from the rear costs the Confederates the battle. At 1:45 p. m., the flanking party arrived and came through the woods firing as they came. It is said to have been one of the most sudden and most fearful fires that men were ever subject to. In about an hour, the Confederates were in full flight.

~~xxxxxxxxx~~

As soon as Averell heard his flanking party commence to fire, he moved the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th regiments obliquely to the right up the mountain. The horses had been left at the foot of the mountain. They came out on top of the mountain exactly on the left of the flanking army and together they advanced on the breastworks of the Confederates and the fight was over in a few minutes, and the Confederate army in full retreat. The losses on both sides was heavy.

Nelle Y. McLaughlin



June 19, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-1-

Chapter 4 - Section 4 - Incidents in Battle of Droop Mountain.

The Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission has tried to mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the markers which they have planted and the maps which they have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Col. Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Batallion was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in a report, "just in the nick of time", turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a fence into the ranks of the 10th West Vir-

ginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied but ran up and kicked two or three rails off the fence and they both jumped over and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. George H. Morrison, Silas Carr and M. D. Shaver were the next of Company F to cross the rail fence. This occurred near the close of the battle. No braver man than J. D. Baxter ever espoused a cause or went to war. A few minutes later Major Bailey of the 22nd Virginia was mortally wounded, while trying to rally his men to make another stand. He was an officer and soldier of daring and courage.

Two most pathetic scenes occurred at that battle: After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded, and among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry.

They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded soldiers. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that he was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for someone to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light, he found for a certainty that it was his brother.

After the battle a young woman was observed going among the dead looking intently into the faces of each dead Confederate soldier. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George". She was the guest at the home of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davisson of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Col. Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordinance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he road up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said, "Damned if I know". Sisler said that he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the team of General Echols' ordinance

wagon became frightened, and whirled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after, the war, people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Hamilton Riggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for the story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain, he passed to a section so rough that he had dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said, "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Prior to the Battle of Droop Mountain there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley, which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, a distance of about one hundred seventy miles, and which protected Virginia from attacks from the west. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate forces, General Averell was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia, to Lewisburg and it was while on the march that he met the enemy

at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought on the 6th day of November, 1863, between the forces commanded by General Averell, and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colones William L. Jackson.

At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on Nov. 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General WM. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th, by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force at Mill Point on the morning of the 5th, and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th W. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft., and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road six and one-half miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven

thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been, if the land had been cleared. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Virginia Inft. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va. Colonel _____ commanding, Kessler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Infantry. Some of these units have been twice named because as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left.

The forces engaged in the battle were composed of twelve Confederate units regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principal fighting was reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 300, and Major Kesler's battalion and other units composed a very elegant fighting force. These units were con-

centrated on the Confederate left and fought the 10th and 28th. So it was a battle royal by seasoned troops of approximately equal numbers.

What turned the tide of battle was the neglect of the Confederate General to fortify his position and protect his flank. Averell, an officer of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and turned the flank of the enemy with his infantry and gave them sudh a slight margin for their escape which caused much confusion.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the lake that protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Echols had fortified the back road over which the flanking units marched, and protected their lines by fallinf timber and temporary breast works on the mountain side, which they had abundant time to do, their position would have been inpregnable. The mere height of a mountain is of but slight advantage to those defending it, if they are not protected by breast works. When the 10th West Va. Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being blocked by cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of lack of numbers on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of her soldiers, but a lack on the part of their commanders to comprehend the situation and take advantage of their position.

June 19, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Partial reports made by the leading officers who participated in the Battle of Droop Mountain.

General Averell's Report:

On the first day of November, I left Beverly with my command consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. A. Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. A. Scott; 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Col. J. H. Oley; 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B & G, First West Virginia Light Artillery, Capt, J. V. Keeper and C. T. Ewing.

On the morning of the 6th we approached the enemy's position. The infantry and one corps of cavalry was sent to the right to ascend a range of hills, with orders to attack the enemy's left and rear, the attack of our infantry, 1,175 strong was conducted skillfully by Col. Moor.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th, dismounted, were moved in line obliquely to the right, until their right was joined to Moor's left. Col. Moor ways when he arrived in front of the enemy's position, at 1:45 P. M. he formed a line and ordered Col. Harris to move up in double quick, who arrived in the nick of time.

Lieut. Col. Scott's Report.

Lieut. Col. Alex. Scott, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, says that about 12 o'clock, having moved to the front, "I was ordered to dismount my command and fight on foot, and

was ordered to take a position between the third and eighth. At this time we found the 3rd, 8th and 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry in line of battle, with Jackson's force. The 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Infantry, immediately in front of the breast works".

I went into action with two hundred men; out of that number, there were nine killed, fourteen wounded, two mortally wounded, seven severly and five slightly.

Report of Colonel John Oley

Eighth West Virginia Mounted Infantry. After taking my place with column on the morning of the 6th, I was ordered to clear the hills up to the foot of Droop Mountain of Skirmishers, and pickets. About 1P. M. I was notified that the 2nd and 3rd Mounted Infantry would take a position on my right, and was ordered to assault the enemy's works in conjunction with them.

Col. James N. Schoonmaker's Report

Col. James N. Schoonmaker, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry says that "On the morning of the 6th, I was ordered with my regiment and Keeper's Battery, to move to the extreme right of the enemy, who had again taken a position on the almost naturally fortified summit of Droop Mountain, and keep up a fire on their forces that their attention might be drawn from Col. Moor, who was to make an attack on their left. Knowing of the intended assault of Col. Moor, I immediately got my regiment re-formed, and passed with two sections of artillery on the double

quick from the extreme right to the center."

Report of Major Thos Gibson, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

" On the 1st day of November, I moved with the Brigade and continued with it until the 5th day of November, on which day I marched to Cackleytown, by way of Marlin's Bottom, with the train".

The 10th West Virginia Infantry lost eight killed and twenty-seven wounded.

The 28th Ohio Infantry lost five killed and twenty-one wounded.

CONFEDERATE REPORTS.

Brig. General John Echols.

Gen. Echols says that he placed his forces at the crest of the mountain. The batteries of Chapman and Jackson under the command of Major W. McLaughlin, were placed near where Col. Jackson had placed two pieces of his battery under the command of Capt. Lurty.

Col. G. S. Patton was placed in command of the First Brigade, viz: the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Maj. R. A. Bailey; the 23rd Virginia Battalion, Major Wm. Blessing commanding; then at the right of the turnpike road near the summit, and Maj. Bailey's 22nd Regiment in the rear of the Battery. At this time, Colonel Thompson's 19th Virginia Cavalry was moved to the left with one hundred and seventy-five men and was

shortly reinforced by six companies of the 23rd Battalion, Later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach these companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain John K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded Echol's Brigade. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five hundred and fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 P. M.

Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion

" When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14t Virginia Cavalry.

Report of Colonel Thompson

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall,

the command consisting of the 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry just then, Major Blessing commanding Dennings Battery, consisting of three hundred men, he having deployed his men on the right of the line formed by Captain Marshall.

Report of Col. W. Wiley, 20th Virginia Cavalry

Says that about 2 P. M. we were attacked by the 2nd and 3rd and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry.

Report of Col. Milton J. Ferguson

Colonel Ferguson, 16th Virginia Cavalry, says that he reported to General Echols on the 5th of November, who was then on the march, and arrived at the camp of Colonel Jackson at the eastern base of Droop Mountain, at 6 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. One squadron of the 14th Regiment was ordered to take position on the old road of Locust Creek. The efficient men of six companies were dismounted, four companies placed on the extreme left under command of Lieutenant Colonel Gibson and two companies in center. John D. Baxter, orderly sergeant of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry, was the first one to cross the rail fence at the bloody angle, and fell mortally wounded inside the enemy's lines.

This whole report has been taken from "Report of Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission" John D. Sutton, Chairman.

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This whole report has been taken from "Report of Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission" John D. Sutton, Chairman.

Inventory of Materials — Cultural History

Battle of Droop Mountain
November 6, 1863

words 1000

Rella F Yeager

Events and dates preceding battle
Troops engaged

Source: Captain E R. Howery

[illegible] History

Battle of Droop Mountain
November 6, 1863

words
1000

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Events and dates preceding battle
Troops engaged

Source:
Captain E. R. Howery

Rella F. Yeager

Rella Yeager
From notes sent to Yeager.

U.S. 2-19 Jones

BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN
November 6, 1863

By Capt. E. R. Howery

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEDING BATTLE

Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Virginia
Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, West Virginia
Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain

Number of troops engaged (Union)----4700
Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950
Number Killed (Union)--------------- 130
Number killed (Confederate)--------- 400

Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U. S. Army, and confederates troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C. S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was; The western part of Virginia was inhabited by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to break down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia. The Southern Troops were very successful. They occupied the Greenbrier Valley with Headquarters at Lewisburg. The road from Lewisburg via Union to the Virginia border was the only available road to Virginia and Tennessee and had the Union troops who were located in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn

out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 26th, Gen Benjamin Kelly, U. S. Army ordered General Averell, who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union, W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted gorilla bands and small detachments of confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, West Virginia, about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg, until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eivon's battery was placed to the left of the turnpike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battallion and the famous 10th W. Va. Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turnpike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain. The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacox road and take the Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A. M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southernors was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Co. Cochran; Dorricks Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with 6 companies of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacox road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P. M. November 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederates back toward Lewisburg. Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion--Cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederate and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment. Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that General Averell did not wish to push the Confederates

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too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off. The Confederates retreated on through the night and passed through Lewisburg just as General Duffie entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

This battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

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This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troop the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

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Inventory of Materials

Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

Bella Yeager

From Confederate Veteran official organ of the U.D.C. and U.C.V.

-1-

History Randolph Co.

BEVERLY UNDER ARTILLERY FIRE.

By Thomas J. Arnold, Elkins, W. Va.

An expedition that proved disastrous to the Confederates, and likewise for some who were not, was that connected with the occupation of Beverly, Va., now West Virginia, during the War between the States.

At the time of the Imboden raid through Western Virginia (April, 1863), Gen. William L. Jackson, who accompanied Imboden, casually remarked while in Beverly that he was coming back there to spend the 4th of July. Of course, no one took the remark seriously. Although it was commonly repeated afterwards, as well to the Federal commander as others, it passed unheeded. Sure enough, on the third day of July, a Confederate force unexpectedly appeared south of and in the vicinity of Beverly, under the command of Gen. William L. Jackson, who dispatched a detachment under Maj. J. B. Lady on the road leading northward, west of the river to its intersection with the road leading to Buckhannon, in order to cut off retreat in that direction. He having previously dispatched another detachment under the command of Col. A. C. Dunn, by a country road, eastward of the main road, with orders to occupy the road leading to Philippi, northward of Beverly, thus cutting off retreat in that direction. He planted his artillery on the slope of the hill, about one and one-half miles southwest of Beverly, and opened fire on the Federals, who were hurriedly gathered within their fortification. The Confederate guns were of small caliber, and, probably due to inferior ammunition, most of the shells fell short, landing in Beverly.

Col. Thomas M. Harris, of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, and who at a later period attained unenviable notoriety, as a member of the military court that tried and convicted Mrs. Surratt and sent her to the scaffold, was in command of the Federals. Guards were stationed on all the roads leading from Beverly; and no one--man, woman, or child--was permitted to pass these guards; hence all civilians were confined to the limits of the town and were thereby subjected to the fire of the Confederate artillery. Although this firing continued for a considerable part of two days, no citizens were injured, and but few houses were struck by shells.

It has always been the understanding, which is probably correct, that the detachment Jackson sent to approach Beverly from the north and open the attack, had in the course of their march found a supply of apple brandy; and the detachment became so intoxicated, that they lost sight of and interest in the undertaking. Jackson waited impatiently throughout the first day for the officer in command of this detachment to make the attack, as prearranged; the second day he was still expecting it every moment, but received no intelligence. Along toward noon there appeared, advancing up the valley, west of the river, an army of mounted men, deployed to sweep everything before them. It was Averill's full brigade of Federal cavalry. It was a formidable force. There was but one thing left for Jackson to do--get out as rapidly as possible or be overwhelmed. This he proceeded to do, and accomplished with such skill that he escaped with but slight loss.

Gen. William L. Jackson, while on the bench prior to the war, had held a term of court in Beverly, knew many of the

citizens, and was familiar with the country in the vicinity. Immediately following the fight, and while Averill was still in pursuit of Jackson, Colonel Harris dispatched guards through the country north of Beverly, who arrested quite a large number of citizens, all of whom were peaceable, law-abiding men--good citizens. They were marched into Beverly and formed in line near the old courthouse. Colonel Harris then walked along the front of the line and put this question to each one separately: "Are you a Union man?" When the answer was directly in the affirmative, the man was passed. When the answer was, "My sentiments are with the South," or its equivelant, Harris ordered the person giving such answer to take two steps forward. Several of those in line, in reply to the question, stated that they were "Constitutional Union men"; of these latter were Lennox Camden, a brother of Judge G. D. Camden, and Charles W. Russell, the latter, a late leading merchant and well known throughout the county, and who was a Union man. This answer evidently, in the opinion of Harris, did not constitute sufficient loyalty, for in each instance where this answer was given, such person was ordered to take the two steps to the front. When Harris had finished his questioning, there were thirteen in the advanced line. The number in this instance in the course of time proved to be a frightful exemplification of all that has ever been attributed to it in the way of being an omen of disaster by those given to superstition. The thirteen were immediately sent under guard to the Federal prison at Fort Delaware. The names of those sent were: Lennox Camden, Charles W. Russell, Thomas J. Caplinger, Levi D. Ward, George Caplinger, Jr., Smith Crouch, John Crouch, William Saulsbury, Phillip Isner, Pugh Chenoweth, William Clem, John

Leary, and Allen Isner.

The public at the time attributed these arrests to Harris's intense hatred of Southern sympathizers and his chagrin and anger at Jackson's having reached the immediate vicinity of Beverly without his knowledge, and especially as Jackson had made announcement of his intended coming several months in advance; all of which Harris realized constituted a severe reflection upon the commander of the post in not having been more alert, and in allowing himself to be this surprised; and which, but for the miscarraiage of Jackson's orders to Colonel Dunn, would have resulted in the probable capture of himself and his entire command; and also, the further fact that Jackson had succeeded in withdrawing his troops and escaping without material loss, all of which was intensified by the rebuke and criticism administered by General Averill, his superior officer. Averill, being a West Point graduate, had no special admiration for civilian army officers like Harris.

There is little doubt that Harris was smarting under Averill's criticisms, and especially as Averill attributed his own failure to defeat, if not to capture, Jackson's command to Harris's failure to notify him (Averill) in time. Averill, in his official report, says: "Had Colonel Harris furnished me with timely warning of the approach of the enemy, I should have killed, captured, or dispersed his entire command. As it was, he received but a slight lesson."

Later, on several occasions, most strenuous efforts were made to obtain the release of these men from Fort Delaware, where they were dying like sheep. The public generally knew they were

innocent of any charge; a number of them were influential men; but all efforts were without avail until virtually half of them had died in prison. When finally the survivors, seven in number, were released, one of them, Lennox Camden, died before reaching home. Another, Philip Isner, died a few days after reaching home. Smith Crouch and John Crouch died very soon afterwards. The three survivors, Charles W. Russell, Thomas B. Caplinger, and George Caplinger, were so broken in health as to suffer from the effects of their incarceration and treatment to the day of their demise.

Harris had, prior to the war, been a country doctor, practiced in Ritchie County (now West Virginia) and later, located in Glenville in the same State. After he became identified with the Union cause, he became intensely partisan. In those days intense partisanship was the stepping-stone, for many, to promotion. Harris had risen to the rank of colonel of the 10th Virginia (Federal) Regiment, as stated. This regiment contained many good men, and many who detested Harris. His unpopularity was such that while stationed at Beverly, he was shot at one night by some of his regiment, one bullet passing through his whiskers. Of this I was informed by one of his commissioned officers. Elevated to the rank of colonel, Harris seemed to have become obsessed with an exalted idea of the prominence that such an appointment carried with it. He was stationed at Beverly, a long time. Having the power of a despot, he was much dreaded, especially as he seemed ever ready to give a willing ear to the unreliable and disreputable who approached him with tales about their neighbors, and which resulted generally in the arrest and imprisonment of those so reported. It would be impossible for me to recall to memory, and I presume it is equally

true of others, the number of citizens of the county, or their names, who were, during the war, arrested and sent under guard to the military prisons of the North, many of them by Harris--generally without cause and without any specific charge being made know to them, and many of whom did not live to return to their homes.

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

Topic: ~~Political~~ History W. Va.

Title: Battle of Droop Mt

Author:

Status: Complete Date Submitted: ________ Length: 600 Words

Editor:

Contents: Detailed history of the Battle of Droop Mt. Gives events and dates preceding battle; full description of battle with map of battlefield.

Source: Source given

Consultant:

Reliability:

File:

Folder:

A-2702

BATTLE OF DROOP MT.

NOVEMBER 6, 1863

BY CAPT. E.R. HOWERY

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEEDING BATTLE

Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Va
Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, W. Va
Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountai

Number of troops engaged (Union)----4700
Number of troops (Confederate)------3950
Number killed (Union)--------------- 130
Number killed (Confederate)--------- 400

Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U.S. Army, and Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C.S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was; The western part of Virginia was inhabited by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harrass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to break down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia.

The Southern Troops were very successful. They occupied the Greenbrier Valley with Headquarters at Lewisburg. The road from Lewisburg via Union to the Virginia border was the only available road to Virginia and Tennessee and had the Union troops who were located in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 28th, Gen. Benjamine Kelly, U.S. Army ordered General Averell who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridgg over New River.

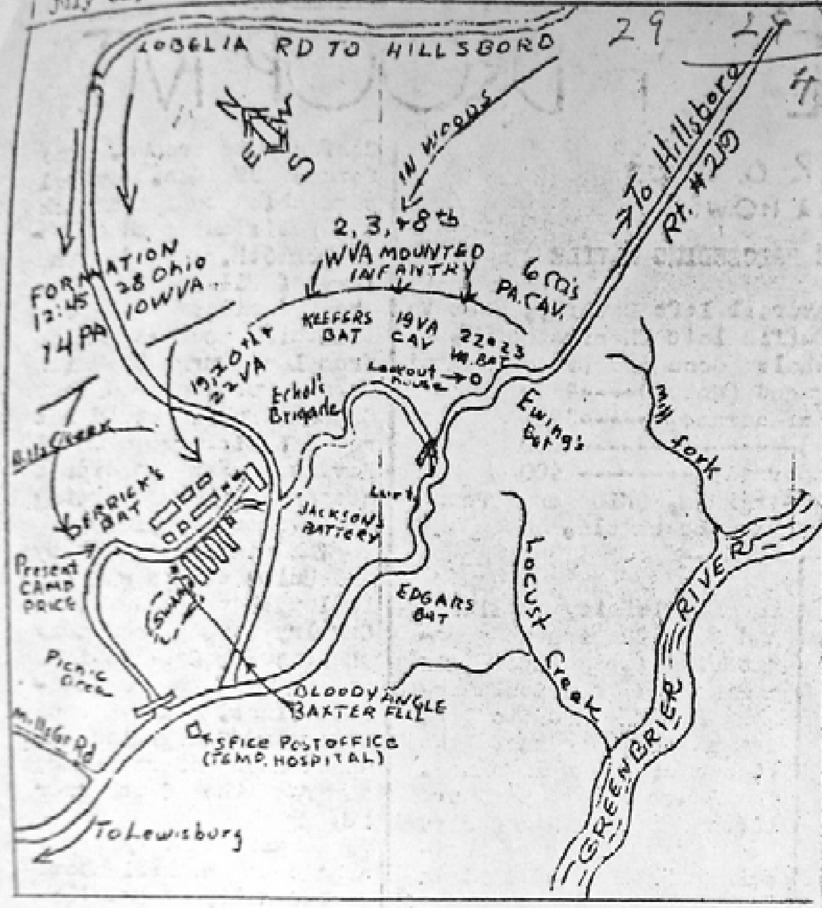
General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted gorilla bands and small detachments of Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averel were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, W. Va., about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southerner lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eiven's battery was placed to the left of the turn pike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's batallion and the famous 10th W. Va Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turn pike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain.

The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacox road and take the



MAP OF BATTLEFIELD

Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A.M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

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Inventory of Materials

Topic: Battlefield History W. Va.

Title: Droop Mountain Battlefield.

Author: Bella F. Yeager

Date submitted: ________ Length: 750 words

Status: Complete Editor: ________

Contents: Complete ~~statement~~ on Droop Mountain Battlefield. Gives location and brief history of battle, and stories concerning it.

Source: Source given

Consultant:

Reliability:

File: ________

Folder: ________

Relle F. Yeager
Rella F. Yeager 6 From Droop Mountain Battlefield Park Commission

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD

One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain, Pocahontas County, on November 6th, 1863, in which West Virginia Soldiers, both Confederate and Union participated.

Droop Mountain is a very high elevation--3000 ft--overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County and the far off peaks of the Allegheny Mountains making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia.

Each Army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. The bitter struggle ended and the animosity engendered by that conflict has passed away and universal peace reigns.

The scene spread out before us was one of indescribable beauty and enchantment. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile plains, the famous historic Greenbrier River flowing at the base of the rugged mountain --nowhere in all our travels have we sitnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a State Park.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in Greenbrier Valley which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate

forces, General Averill was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia to Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County, and ~~xxx~~ it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought between the forces commanded by General Averill and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson. Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, the County seat, seven miles from Mill Point and four from Hillsboro. It is ten miles from Renick Station, sixteen from Frankford and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg.

The forces engaged in the battle of Droop Mountain were composed of twelve Confederate Units, regiments, battalion and independent companies while the Union forces were composed of nine Unites, regiments and battalions. There was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies. The 10th West Virginia Infantry and the 23rd Ohio that composed the flanking party and did the principal fighting was officially reported as 1175 while the 22nd Virginia Infantry Confederate was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Capt. Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Capt Derringes Battalion 500 and Major Kesler battalion and other units composed a fine fighting force.

Another phase of the history of Droop Mountain is of special interest. We reason from analogy and from prehistoric evidence that Droop Mountain has been a battlefield of some prehistoric race or by the earl y Indian tribes

of America. Many wondêrful stories are handed down through journals and family records of the Shawnees who were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the country west of the Allegheny. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the six nations and existed in various branches. We find excavations at the foot of Droop Mountain where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

At one time this has been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest. Many legends are told by people who lived on Droop Mountain and handed down for younger generations.

A young Union Officer who rode a beautiful sorrel horse was killed while riding fast around a large tree. The frightened riderless horse ran around the tree several times before it was stopped. It was said by people of that battle they could hear the rapid running of that frightened horse around that tree on the anniversaries of that battle. A most pathetic scene occurred at that battle. After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded. Among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F. West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night and Short discovered a dead soldier and took hold of his body to remove him to the place they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldiers hand and the sixe and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother John. He called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother,

and when they got the light he found for a certainty that the man really was his own brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newton many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew this to be the lifeless body of his brother. This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever to our knowledge been recorded in the annals of warfare.

Rella F. Yeager

Inventory of Materials

Topic: Political History W. Va.

Title: Pocahontas County in the Civil War.

Author: Rella F. Yeager

Date submitted: ________ Length: 1100 words

Editor: ________

Status: Complete

Contents: Complete account of Pocahontas County in the Civil War. Gives names of officers & companies formed, engagements fought; battle of Rich Mountain; General R. E. Lee in W. Va.

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Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

In the year 1861 the clouds of War hung over our Country; their deep density hung over Virginia which at that time included West Virginia. Civil commotion shook the grand old Commonwealth.

Everywhere they enlisted in their native state; from the tide washed shores, from the midland counties and from the rock ribbed Alleghenies, long lines of brave soldiers marched forth to battle and die upon a hundred crimson fields. Among them were many of the descendents of the first pioneers of Pocahontas County who a century before had struggled with the fierce and relentless barbarians and had at last driven him from the country in which they had founded their homes, where the soldiers of a later day were born and reared.

When the tocsin of War sounded throughout their native mountains volunteering began. Andrew G. McNeel repaired to the Little Levels and organized the first company. This was early in the spring of 1861. A requisition was made for arms and they were shipped from Richmond, but were never received and the company disbanded in the fall of that same year.

Captain D. A. Stofer mustered a company at Huntersville, went south and with it was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry.

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John M. Lightner was first Lieutenant in this Company from Huntersville.

The third Company formed was that of Captain Arbogast at Greenbank. It too, was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry. Captain Arbogast was afterward promoted to Major of the regiment. Lieutenant H. M. Poague of Pocahontas County but serving in a Bath County Company was killed in action at Warrenton Virginia, October 12 1863.

Lieutenant James McLaughlin, of Captain Stofer's Company from Huntersville was wounded at Shepherdstown and died at Winchester, Virginia. The loss was considerable on both sides. Among that of the Confederates was that of Captain Anderson of the Lynchburg Artillery and Captain J. C. Whitmer of the Pocahontas Rifles.

In the Civil War the first engagement which occurred in Pocahontas County was at Camp Bartow on what is known as the Peter Yeager farm known as Traveler's Repose. Late in the summer of 1861 a Confederate force was collected at this point. It consisted of the first Georgia Infantry, Col. Ramsey commanding; the twelfth Georgia, Colonel Edward Johnson in command; the 31st Virginia Infantry, Colonel William L. Jackson and Colonel Hansbro's Battalion; the Churchville Cavalry from Churchville, Augusta County, commanded by the Captain J. C. McNutt; the entire force under the command of General Henry L. Jackson.

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The firing began early in the morning and continued until night-fall when the Federals withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain summit. The Confederate loss was thirty-six killed. That of the Federals unknown. A few days later the Confederates fell back to Camp Allegheny, and after being reinforced by two regiments, one of which was the 52nd Virginia Infantry, under Colonel John Baldwin, they fortified a strong natural position. Here in December they were again attacked by the Federals and the engagement continued throughout the day, but terminated as had the first, in the repulse of the Federals.

BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN

On the 23rd day of June 1861 General McClellan assumed command of the Federal forces in Western Virginia and began a series of movements which met with no successful resistance until the ~~Federals~~ Confederates were compelled to retreat beyond the mountains. He marched against General Pegrim who with a force of 4000 infantry had taken up a strong position on Rich Mountain which is also known by that name in Pocahontas County. Pegrim sent 2500 men and a battery of artillery to resist the advance of Rosecrans. They were the first to reach the top of the Mountain and here the Federals were greeted by a discharge of Artillery and their advance checked. Soon they were reinforced by an Indiana regiment. A charge was made along the entire line. The Confederates fell back and at once began a hasty retreat.

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General R. E. Lee in West Virginia.

General RxxE. Lee, the ablest officer in Virginia, marched at the head of 9000 men against General Reynolds who was lying with a considerable force at Cheat Mountain. The attack was made on the 14th of September and after severals hours severe fighting Lee was forced to retreat, leaving 100 dead upon the field.

Among the dead was Colonel John Washington, a recent proprietor of Mount Vernon. Lee's army halted on the banks of the Greenbrier river and began to entrench itself. General Reynolds, after receiving re-enforcements set out on the 2nd of October from Cheat Mountain with a force of 5000 men to drive Lee from his position. Colonel Kimball with the 14th Indiana led the advance while General Milroy, with a portion of his brigade was to deploy to the left, drive in the pickets and force the Confederates within the entrenchments.

At daylight he arrived at Greenbrier bridge and found it occupied. A charge was made, the bridge carried and a crossing effected. Then began an artillery duel which fairly shook the surrounding mountains. Soon three of Lee's guns were disabled and he again retreated. The Federal Loss was eight killed and thirty-two wounded. Lee left General Johnson of Georgia with 2000 men on the summit of the Alleghenies,

150 being buried on the field. Pegrim finding no way of escape a few days later surrendered his entire forces prisoners of war.

General R. E. Lee in West Virginia.

General ~~RxxE~~. Lee, the ablest officer in Virginia, marched at the head of 9000 men against General Reynolds who was lying with a considerable force at Cheat Mountain. The attack was made on the 14th of September and after severals hours severe fighting Lee was forced to retreat, leaving 100 dead upon the field.

Among the dead was Colonel John Washington, a recent proprietor of Mount Vernon. Lee's army halted on the banks of the Greenbrier river and began to entrench itself. General Reynolds, after receiving re-enforcements set out on the 2nd of October from Cheat Mountain with a force of 5000 men to drive Lee from his position. Colonel Kimball with the 14th Indiana led the advance while General Milroy, with a portion of his brigade was to deploy to the left, drive in the pickets and force the Confederates within the entrenchments.

At daylight he arrived at Greenbrier bridge and found it occupied. A charge was made, the bridge carried and a crossing effected. Then began an artillery duel which fairly shook the surrounding mountains. Soon three of Lee's guns were disabled and he again retreated. The Federal Loss was eight killed and thirty-two wounded. Lee left General Johnson of Georgia with 2000 men on the summit of the Alleghenies,

Rollie F. [illegible]

and continued his march to Staunton. Milroy marched against Johnson, taking with him the 13th Indiana and two other regiments. On the 15th of December he reached Camp Allegheny where he found the Confederates strongly fortified.

An engagement took place, the results of which were not afvantageous to either side, the loss being 130 on both sides. Milroy withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain.

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Pocahontas Co –

Above all taken from Hardesty's Encyclopedia.

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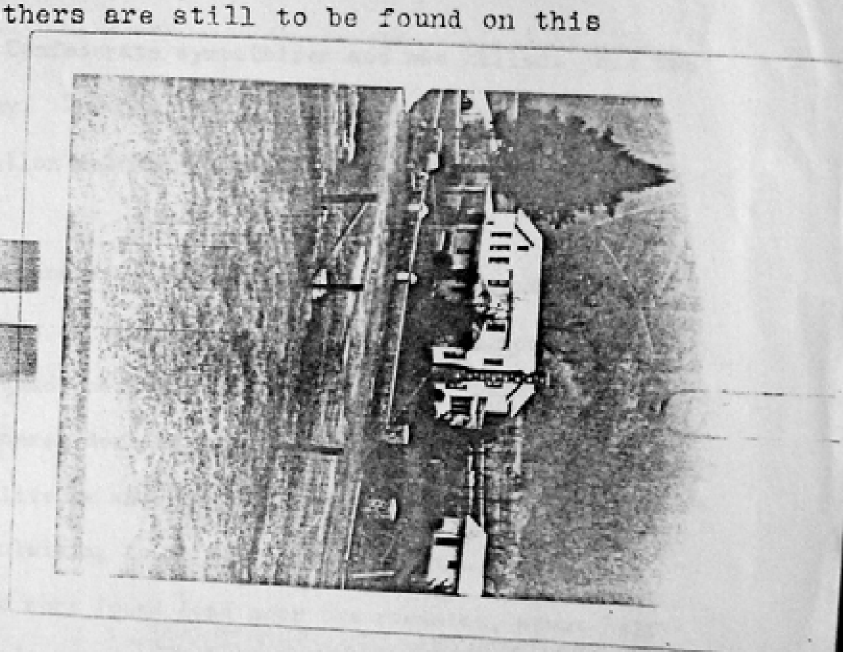
Juanita Dilley
Clover Lick
Pocahontas County



Juanita S. Dilley

Pocahontas County

A part of the Confederate fortifications at Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose. Two cannons were stationed here. This and several others are still to be found on this battle field.



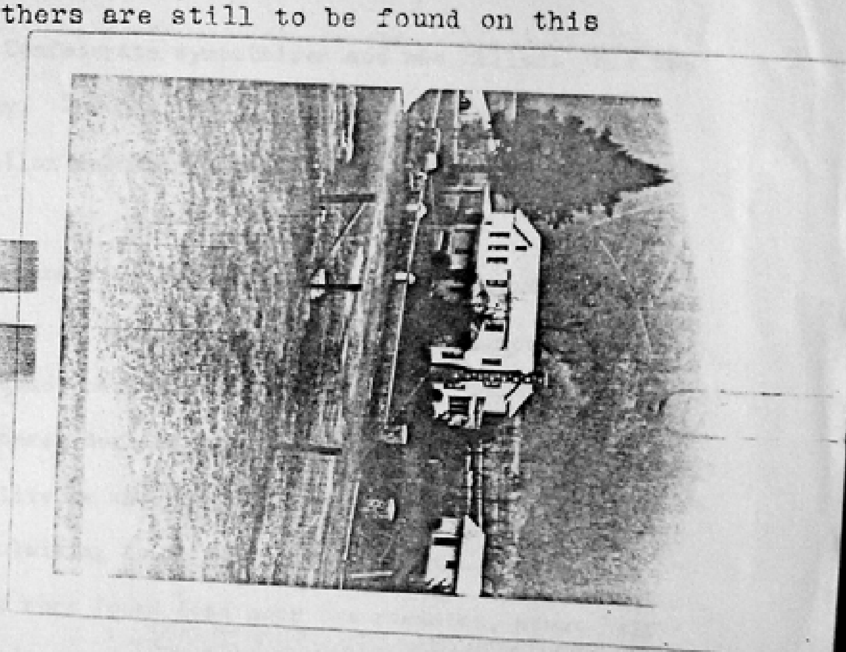
Historic Travelers Repose as it is today. The only regular stage coach stop in the county. The original building was practically destroyed during the Civil War. Mr. B. B.Beard who now owns it tells me that the front part of the house is pretty much as it was rebuilt by Peter Yeager after the war.



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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

CHAPTER 4 - SECTION 4b - 3

Many of our citizens were arrested during the war for being sympathizers on one side or the other. The following are a few of the names I have been able to find. Also some were killed for their beliefs.

Thomas Galford was a pronounced Confederate sympathizer and was regarded as a dangerous citizen to be at large in war times. He was arrested by a detachment of Union soldiers under Captain Nelson Fray, sent to Camp Chase where he died during the war.

John Smith of Stony Creek was a Union sympathizer. He was arrested by the Confederate militia, but was proven not dangerous and was released on parole. He died before he got back home.

Richard Auldridge was a Confederate sympathizer and was killed. His two sons were in the southern army. The one son, John Auldridge was killed at Gettysburg. The other son, Allen Auldridge, was discharged as a brave and faithful soldier.

Josiah Beard was taken prisoner by Federal troops near the end of the war, though he was past 70 years of age. Something was said to rouse his ire, and he challenged the whole squad to single combat.

Henry Arbogast was a sincere, decided but harmless sympathizer with the Union cause. When last seen alive he and his neighbor Eli Buzzard were in charge of a squad of persons claiming to be confederate scouts. A few days afterwards these two civilians were found dead near the roadside, about half way between their homes at Glade Hill and Frost. From the attitude in which Arbogast's body was found it is inferred that he died in the act of prayer.

William R. Moore lived near Edray. He was greatly respected. His sympathies were with the Union adherents, and he died at Wheeling during the war. (From) (Prices History of Pocahontas)

Chapter 4 27 43

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George Burner was a Jacksonian democrat, and strange to say one of the original Pocahontas secessionists, so intense his devotions to state rights had become.

(The question of secession was the main issue in Pocahontas. Many had already freed their slaves because they did not believe in slavery, yet they did not believe in setting them all free at once.)

Jacob Slaven lived on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Many people traveled this route, and the home of Jacob Slaven was well known as a place of hospitality. Governor Joe Johnson and Stonewall Jackson have stopped here to enjoy trout and venison. Everything seemed prosperous and pleasant with Jacob Slaven until the terrible ravages of war laid his home in ashes, and exiled the happy inmates.

Few places in the county were so ravaged by war as was upper Pocahontas. From - Prices' History.

Irregular Warfare - Bushwhacking. In the spring of 1862 with the regular troops swept out of the county, the irregular fighters began to cause trouble. They called them gorillas at first, but later coined the word bushwhackers. It was the curse of a brave and impetuous people, such as are to be found in the mountains that they could not help taking part in the fighting whether they had been sworn in or not. They carried guns like city men carry canes, and they shot on one side or the other according to their convictions.

Milroy in a letter to Gen. W. S. Rosecrans wrote on March 18, 1862. This day was set as the day for drafting of the militia of Pocahontas and Highland counties. Many citizens to escape draft were hiding in the mountains and trying to escape. Seven have arrived here yesterday.

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April 4, 1862 General William Skeen wrote to Confederate headquarters that these men that Virginia had authorized to organize as regulars for the home defense were devastating the country and had killed three citizens of Pocahontas and stolen 15 horses. He complained of them as bitterly as did the Federal generals.

Regular troops were withdrawn after the Battle of Top Allegheney. Then it was hundreds of able-bodied men took up arms to defend themselves, and there were uneasy times.

Soldiers at home on furlough responded to appeal for assistance and little armies would spring up in a day, have a skirmish, and disband as quickly as they had come together. It was but an echo of the minute men of the Revolution. The battle of Duncan's Lane was the largest battle fought in Pocahontas by these troops and furlough soldiers, though there was continual smaller skirmishes.

The courts did not meet and the citizens suffered from the needs of soldiers of both armies and from the irregular troops. It is certain that nowhere in the country was there more peril to inhabitants than in the county of Pocahontas. This danger was so great because of the division of sentiment.

From - West Virginia Blue Book 1928

There was a skirmish at Marlins Bottom April 18, 1864, Captain J. W. Marshall's Co. of the 19th Virginia Cavalry came upon a company of Federal soldiers identity unknown, and chased them north toward Edray.

LAST BATTLE

The last battle of the Civil war was fought at Brandy Hallow near Huntersville, on the site of Camp Northwest on the 18th day of May 1865.

This engagement was fought between the 8th Ohio Cavalry and a portion of Gen. W. L. Jackson's army returning to their homes after the surrender.

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Marlinton, W. Va.

April 3, 1940

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

Chapter 4--Section 4--Part b

Reminiscences of Civil War Days.
By Evelyn Yeager Beard.

In the fall and winter of 1861-62 the Confederate soldiers camped at Camp Allegheny, my old home place, under the command of Jose (Ed) Johnson. The sugar grove belonging to my father, John Yeager, consisting of about five hundred trees was used for building the camps and cabins. This location could be used as a point of vantage, as by using field glasses they could observe the movements of the Union soldiers camped on top of Cheat Mountain, near the Clubhouse.

The year of 1861-62 was a cold and rainy year. Many of the soldiers camping there were from the South. I remember them as being not very warmly clad, and shivering with cold. Not being used to the cold, damp climate many of them sickened and died, and were buried on a little hill back of our house.

Our back porch was partitioned off to be used as a commissary by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The soldiers wanting tobacco, candy, etc., would have to wait their turn. The room being small, and at times crowded, they would ask me to make their purchases for them. Being a child and small, they would make room for me. I would make their purchases and then receive a liberal share of the candy. I was a youngster of about ten and my brother, Mack Yeager (Paul McNeel Yeager) eight. The officers and soldiers made a lot over us children. Receiving boxes from home they would invite us down to help eat them. Of course we were not particularly shy in doing so. Many of

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One of the skirmishes of the Civil War was fought at this point, called Church Hill, or Camp Allegheny. While but a skirmish, it was a hard fought one and lasted from about 4 A.M. until after 2 P.M. If I remember correctly, nineteen were killed. I remember the shots falling on the roof of our house like hail. My mother and sister Fannie were ill at this time. During a lull in the battle Colonel Baldwin of the 52nd Virginia Regiment had them carried over on cots to his own cabin for safety, and they remained there during the night. My brother Mack Yeager and myself watched the remainder of the battle from a point of safety. We saw the Confederate flagman fall, and saw the flag almost instantly raised again, believe by Lieut. Rigor, but I am not positive about the name. Capt. Mollohan was killed in the battle of Church Hill, and was buried there along with many others. A spent ball passed between my brother the late Henry Yeager, and Rachel Arbogast, who was visiting us. Capt. Anderson, Confederate was killed by advanced guard of Union soldiers dressed in Confederate uniform. Capt. Anderson waved to them, thinking they were Confederate men and he was instantly killed.

After the battle was over there were several wounded men to be taken care of. The cabins were unsuitable, and my mother

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After so many of our own boys had joined the army, mail became an important item in the lives of those at home. All of our mail, as well as that of the neighbors, had to be gotten from Hightown, Virginia, eleven miles away, only one house being located along the way. The person making the trip would bring mail for all in the neighborhood. Practically every family had someone that belonged to them in the war. The boys, before leaving, decided that when any of them wrote a letter, they would mention the ones they knew and had seen, so each family would hear as often as possible. Mail in those days was not a daily occurrence as it is now, and receiving word, however indirectly, would be a comfort to the ones at home. When our turn came for getting the mail, I was usually the one that rode horse-

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back on the weekly trips to get it. I never was afraid, except when making the return trip. On the way home at every turn in the road, I expected to meet an army of Yankees. Eight of the eleven miles was dense timberland, and looking back on it now, I believe I was a pretty good soldier myself, for those miles seemed long ones to a child making the trip alone, even though I usually went and came in a sweeping gallop. On one of these trips my sister Fannie, about twenty years of age, later Mrs. James D. Kerr, made the trip. After leaving, several regiments of Union soldiers came by on their way to Hightown, and my mother knew that my sister would have to meet them on her way back. The hour came for her return, sundown and dark, and still she had not returned. It was a long, anxious night, and we, children that we were, at least partly realized the hours of anxious suspense that my mother was going through. At daybreak she returned. She had met the Yankee soldiers about three o'clock in the afternoon, six miles from home, at Laurel Fork. A ruffian soldier ordered her off her horse, but the officer in command (think it was Col. Geo. Washington Hull, from McDowell, Virginia) stepped forward saying, "No, Lady, stay on your horse. You shall not be harmed but we shall have to delay your return home until morning. We mean to camp near here tonight and no word must be carried back." At sundown the officer sent a guard woth her to Daniel Wilfong's, three miles from home, he himself standing guard outside all night to make sure no word was sent to Confederate soldiers. At daybreak, he rejoined

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Mother and Fannie knitted socks for Will and Henry while in the army. Yankees were often passing through, and at one of these times we had quite a scramble in the pantry. Mother and I entered in time to see a Yankee trying to make his escape through the window with his arms full of provisions and the prized knitted socks, with Fannie clinging frantically to the socks, determined he should not have them. Those watching from outside laughed at their comrade's predicament, trying to retain the socks as well as the provisions, and yet not lose his balance on the high narrow window. Fannie was victorious in the struggle for possession of the socks.

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a gun over our shoulder, and went out on the hill where we knew Dave and Jim Kerr, who were not old enough to go to the army, could see us. They spied us and, thinking we were suspicious characters, possibly Yankee spies, shouldered their guns also and started our way. We began to saunter in the direction of the house, but it was not long before we heard them cry, "Halt," which we knew to do immediately. Only a short time before one of the pickets had cried, "Halt" to Jack Slayton. Not being quite normal mentally, he became frightened and did not obey the command. I can imagine I see them carrying him by our house now.

When the heavy fighting and cannonading was being done in Richmond and other points in Virginia, we would lie flat on the ground and listen to the rumble of the cannon. Anxiously we would wait for mail to hear of our boys were in those battles and were safe.

At the close of the Civil War, Henry Arbogast Yeager was held as a prisoner-of-was at Point Lookout, Maryland, and was released, after taking the oath of allegiance to the United States, on June 17, 1865. The prisoners were released alphabetically, and Henry Yeager realized too late to be released under "J", as the original spelling of Yeager was with a "J", and he began calling himself "Reager" instead of Yeager. When he was finally released it was under "R" as Henry A. Reager but he took good care to sign it "Henty A. Yeager". This is true , as the photostat copy on file in Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va., original on file in War Dept., Washington, D. C., plainly shows. Their system was not as ironclad then as now.

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Juanita Dilley
Clover Lick
Pocahontas County

Chap. 4

CIVIL WAR

Captain J. W. Mathews served in the war between the states. He had always expressed a desire to be buried in a Confederate Uniform and according to his wish his body was drawn to the grave in a two-horse wagon. He was born in Pocahontas County in 1839 and at the age of 21 he enlisted as a private in Co. 125th Virginia Infantry and saw service in many of the historic battles of the Civil War. He was one of the so-called prisoner of war in Charleston S. C. been placed with a number of others, about 600 between the Federal defense and the attacking Confederates, and being exposed to the firing of this attacking army. Fortunately the danger of the prisoners was discovered in time to avert any casualties. He died in Greenbrier County in 1930.

Wednesday Oct. 10, 1934 Mathew John McNeel celebrated this nineteenth birthday at the old McNeel homestead where there has a John McNeel resided since 1768. At the age of seventeen he entered the Civil War and saw arduous and honorable service. He is the last remaining member of Captain W. L. Mcneels' Company of soldiers. -----Pocahontas Times

No where in the mountains were the Confederate States more solidly supported then in the Greenbank community in fact there was hardly a Union man found in the whole community. The first year of the war 1861, Confederate Veterans Company "G" of the Virginia 31st Regiment mustered in the service 53 all volunteers. In the second year of the war company G had 120 soldiers, all six feet tall except James Hughes and Robert Wolfenbarger, practically all from the Greenbank District. Company G. was of the famous 31st Regiment of the 4th Brigade of Stonewall Jacksons Corps and Army under the command of Robert E. Lee. The Union soldiers admitted that they could always tell when they had to confront the 31st Regiment of Stonewall's Brigade, due to the fact that the impace was always stubborn and irresistible.

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It will be remembered that the main battle of Braxton was fought on Oct. 3, 1861 and that the Confederate army fell back to the Top Allegheny, and went to building cabins for the winter, and fortifying and building batteries.

The idea of the Confederates in moving to the Top Allegheny was to present an army from marching in behind them by the way of the North Fork road, and the Greenbank Mountain road. Pickets were placed down the Greenbank road, and on the North Fork road. The pickets on the North Fork road decided to blockade it, to be sure that the enemy could not get in the rear, and company G was on the detail to pilot a company of soldiers down on the North Fork with the instructions to blockade it in such a tangle that it would take a year or more to cut it out. The soldiers cut down the mannoth hemlock across the road for about four miles. The soldiers said that it was the largest blockade in the war. After the war it took the road hands about two years to cut it out of the road, and each man working about four days. The Greenbank mountai road was also blockaded.

It was in the engagement on Top Allegheny that the old Confederates soldiers, William Slayton was wounded and crept off in the bush to die, but was found two days later by his comrades who were searching for miss ing soldiers. Their attention was attracted to the place of some one singing a good old hymn. When found, they were told he though he would sing a hymn before he died, but he recovered and lived many years.

It will be remembered that the home of John Yeager was in the center of the battle field. We have it from Mrs. Rachel Sutton, who at that time was staying with her uncle, John Yeager and Mr. J. D. Beard, a daughter of John Yeager, that they were awakened in the morning before daylight by the loud talking of the soldiers. They were getting ready for battle, and were filling the breastworks just back of the Yeager house. When the bullets began falling on the house like hail.

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the Confederate General ordered the inmates to vacate the house, the Yeager family moved out. When they came back, after the battle, they found the house riddled with bullets, one corner was badly damaged by a cannon ball and house was filled with wounded soldiers. The upstairs was used for a hospital for many days, and many of the soldiers died in the house.

The retreat of the Union forces after the battle was known as "Slaytons Retreat" and led to the composition of the old violin tune of the same name, which was composed by two Confederates soldiers, George B. Sutton and Robert Wolfenbarger, who said they heard him trying to give the command to retreat, but couldn't say anything for stammering. It was reported afterwards, that the delay of the Union army, and failing to make the attack in the rear at the proper time was due to the fact that they found a barrel or two of good cider at the Nottingham home and wouldn't march a step until it was all consumed and their canteens filled. The unreasonable thing about the official reports of the battle of Top Allegheny is that perhaps 2000 soldiers on each side would stand and shoot at each other from daylight until 2:30 and only 20 killed on each side. But it will be remembered that the boys of the Blue and the Gray" who fought were amateurs in the art of warfare, and had not yet been drilled, and had not learned the military tactics of Jackson, Lee, and Grant. The shooting must have been at random, for the lumber company who cut the timber in that section found a number of trees half cut down by the cannon balls, these trees were said to be entirely out of the line of battle.

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